



TOMORROW

Does crime really pay? In Saturday tomorrow the winning entry in The Times / Veve Cluquet Short Crime Story Competition...

Referendum to decide on reforms

The South African Government's proposals for constitutional reform, involving three houses of parliament for whites, Coloureds and Asians, but not including Africans, were presented yesterday.

Reagan saved on freeze vote

President Reagan was saved from another setback on the nuclear front by a Republican amendment which lessened the impact of the House of Representatives resolution for a mutual freeze.

Oil venture

BP and a consortium led by Phillips Petroleum are to develop the Andrew oil field, which has estimated reserves of 140 million barrels, 120 miles from Aberdeen.

Bank doubts

Lord Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, questioned the wisdom of allowing building societies to compete directly with banks and insurance companies.

Khyber trip

Princess Anne completed her visit to Pakistan yesterday by travelling to the Khyber Pass close to the Afghanistan border.

Irish protest

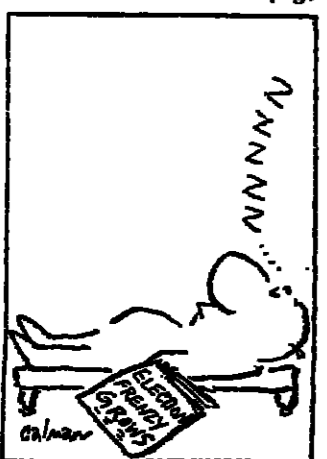
The Irish Government has formally protested to Britain about criticism of Irish unity by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence.

Jaguar roaring

Jaguar Cars is considering the reintroduction of a night shift at its Coventry plant to cope with record sales. Production will reach an estimated 28,000 cars this year.

A £1.9m suit

An anonymous New York collector paid £1,925,000 at Sotheby's for a suit of armour made about 1550 for King Henry II of France in a £4m sale of pieces from Hever Castle.



Leader page 11 Letters: On CND, from Dr Alex Comfort, and Mr Eric Jacobs; rates, from Mr Geoffrey Rippon. OC: MF, Lech Walesa, from Fr Dominic Kirkham. Leading articles: Edwin Meece's Lecture: The Tudeh Party; Two Germanys. Features, pages 8-10 Ken Livingstone's pantomime cow; Election fever: a vital weekend at Chequers; Heading for a fall at the summit. Spectrum: Friday in a man about the house. Obituary, page 12 Mr John Aldridge, Dr Anton Buttigeig.

Table with 3 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Business, Court, Crossword, Diary, Events, Law Report. Includes sub-sections like Motoring, Parliament, Property, Sale Rooms, Science, Sport, TV & Radio, Theatres, Universities, Weather.

Tory initiative on election may be lost, MPs fear

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Conservative MPs, after a week of growing excitement at the prospect of a June general election, were by last night seriously concerned that the Prime Minister might have lost the initiative. They believe that the assembly of senior advisers at Chequers on Sunday, and the fact that it is known, may make imperative an announcement by Mrs Margaret Thatcher early next week. If so, and if her preference after full consideration is to go to the country in late June, then she is in danger of giving the Opposition parties six or seven weeks' notice of an election. She has had strong advice from within the party that to give more than the four weeks' notice required by statute would particularly help the Liberals and Social Democrats, who can expect increased exposure to public view during a campaign. It is now known that Mrs Thatcher received advice from some quarters earlier in the week to cancel the Chequers consultations so that this danger might be avoided, but she was not persuaded. She takes the view that weekend meetings with senior ministers, which first took place regularly in the relaxed setting of Chequers during the Falklands war and have been repeated from time to time since, are especially valuable and she does not intend to be deprived of the chance of a first detailed consideration, in the light of today's local election results, of the election options. Those in the party who a week ago were complaining that it was unwise of the Prime Minister to allow the local elections to be seen as the prologue to an announcement, now make the same complaint about Chequers. The message of the past 48 hours, made on the Prime Minister's behalf, that no announcement of any kind should necessarily be looked for next week, has been delivered too late for Conservative backbenchers who last night dismissed the notion that silence could or should be kept. The cast list for Chequers, meanwhile, has been enlarged to include not only Mr William Whitelaw, deputy leader of the party, Mr Cecil Parkinson, party chairman, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, but also Mr John Biffen, leader of the commons, Mr Michael Jopling, Chief Whip, and Mr Ian Gow, the Prime Minister's parliamentary private secretary, whose judgment she values highly. Others may also attend. The evidence is that this gathering will help Mrs Thatcher to give serious formal consideration for the first time to the advisability of a June election. She has been receiving and receiving unsought informal advice for weeks. The reason why no one so far has been able to detect her intentions is that up to last night she had formed none. In the Commons yesterday she showed a weary contentment as the twice-weekly routine was tried. When Mr Michael Foot asked about a newspaper report that Mr Whitelaw had revealed the date as June 9, a report since denied, Mrs Thatcher said that this question did not merit a reply. One rather more substantial straw was in the wind yesterday after Mr Edwin Meece, a senior member of President Reagan's staff, met the Prime Minister and received her absolute assurance that she will have talks with the President, and Williamsburg, Virginia, for the economic "summit" from May 28 to 30. This intelligence intensified discussion at Westminster of the feasibility of an election on June 9, the earliest possible date and one that many Conservatives favour. The majority view was that the American visit so late in a campaign would be possible but on balance unwise, since three full campaigning days, excluding Sunday, would be lost and two others partly so. Mrs Thatcher's programme, which it was said last night could not be shortened, entails leaving London in the early evening of Thursday, May 26, and returning, at the earliest, by noon on Tuesday, May 31. The Williamsburg conference is due to end with a state banquet on the Monday night which she is said to be reluctant to miss.

Labour strategists meet to plan marginal seats attack

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Labour Party strategists will formalize their plans today to win 105 key marginal seats which would take them within striking distance of a parliamentary majority. Campaign organization for the general election is expected to dominate the two-day "summit of the Left", bringing together the Shadow Cabinet, union leaders and the party's national executive at the Woodstock education college of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Unions. Strategy papers for the conference in the possession of the "target" seats are being reviewed by Conservatives in the May 1979 poll, two by nationalists and 49 by Labour. They must be retained if Mr Michael Foot is to have any chance of becoming Prime Minister. If Labour's plan to win all those "category A" constituencies succeeds, Labour would emerge as the largest party in the Commons. Mr Foot would then be obliged to seek an accommodation with the smaller parties, or form a minority administration. Exact comparisons with the last general election are impossible because of extensive changes in the boundaries of many constituencies. But using the authoritative calculations for the new parliament published in The Almanac of British Politics by Mr Robert Waller (Croom Helm £12.95), the marginals strategy, if successful would give Labour 313 seats in a 650-seat House of Commons. The Tories would become the second largest party, with 306 seats. The list of marginals registers internal party anxiety about the possible impact of SDP influence in 15 constituencies, particularly in the London area, the South-west, East Midlands and new towns around the capital. Labour's campaign paper also undermines the conventional wisdom that the party sees the West Midlands as pivotal to its election hopes. Only three Conservative seats are identified in that region as target constituencies, compared with twice as many in the East Midlands and nine in the politically-volatile North-western area. The list, drawn up by Mr David Hughes, national agent of the party, in consultation with Labour's local agents, is supplemented by a "B" category table of just over 80 seats that would only be winnable in a landslide for the Left. This table is certain to be revised in the light of yesterday's local elections, and in any event some of the seats it includes come into the wishful-thinking category - such as Banbury which has a Tory majority of 13,000. Continued on back page, col 3

£350m for Britain in Robin Hood charter

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The European Commission presented its new "Robin Hood's charter" in Brussels yesterday, setting out what it described as the only possible solution for saving the EEC from bankruptcy. If accepted by member states, it would increase the Community's ability to spend by some £3,300m, at present levels. The plan, which would basically take more from the rich countries to give to the poor, could reduce Britain's EEC budget deficit by between a third and a half. If it were implemented now, that would mean a saving of about £350m over the year. The plan was necessary, Mr Gaston Thorn, the Commission president, said, because the Community was on the point of running out of money, owing to "a disturbing increase" in agricultural expenditure. It was also high time for a better balance to be found between revenue and expenditure. The plan does not include specific new promises on how the extra money will be spent. The main plank of the Commission's argument is that there must be an increase in the amount of money available for the Community budget. The Commission therefore wants member states to increase the amount of value-added tax revenue they pay into the budget from 1 per cent of their total receipts to 1.4 per cent. Such an increase would have to be approved by parliaments in all member states, but the Commission is asking that future increases could be agreed, when necessary, by the Council and the European Parliament alone. The second main plank is to hold agricultural spending down to no more than a third of the total budget. Any extra money would have to be raised by a "modulated" value-added tax, which would take into account both the relative prosperity of member states and the amount of agricultural produce each was responsible for. Details of plan, page 7

Television row goes on

League may lose sponsor's £3m offer

The Football League announced yesterday that Canon (UK) Limited are to sponsor the League for £3m over the next three years. But the contract, the biggest in British sport, depends on the outcome of talks between the club chairman and the television companies, which broke down yesterday. The chairman, who met in London, rejected the latest television proposals but voted unanimously for the management committee to renegotiate a new deal. The BBC and ITV, after hearing the decision, immediately withdrew their offer, worth a total of £5.4m over the next two seasons. John Bromley, the head of sport at London Weekend, said: "We are further away from reaching agreement than we have ever been in the last seven months. Football has got to realize that it is no longer one of the great sports on television. It has lost its way and is gradually strangling itself to death." Martin Walter, the chairman of Canon, commented: "If no television deal is agreed, obviously we will look at whether our sponsorship goes ahead. If there were a significantly lower amount of football on television next season, then we would have to look at the situation again." The clubs will share £496,000 a year under the sponsorship deal, £10,000 for those in the first division, £6,000 for the second, £4,000 for the third and £2,000 for the fourth. Prize money of £214,000 is also offered as well as money for ground safety and youth schemes.



Paris clashes: Small businessmen demonstrating against the Government's austerity measures yesterday break through police barricades.

Students attack French police

From Diana Geddes Paris

Police used teargas and batons in violent clashes with two big demonstrations in Paris yesterday. One involved some 20,000 shopkeepers and other owners of small businesses, protesting against price controls and other austerity measures. The second an estimated 8,000 students protesting against planned reforms of higher education.

The clash with the students was once again provoked by a small minority of extreme right-wingers, wearing crash helmets and scarves over their faces, who attacked the assembled riot police near the Pont d'Amsterritz in the Fourth Arrondissement with Molotov cocktails and stones. Similar incidents occurred last Friday.

The police responded with tear gas grenades, backed up by water cannons, while police motorcyclists gave chase down the narrow streets near the Jardins des Plantes, where some students had erected barricades of burning tyres. First reports indicated that about 30 students were arrested. Three policemen were hurt.

The incidents broke out towards the end of the demonstration at about 6 p.m. Earlier, thousands of students, mostly from Paris, but also from the provinces, had marched peacefully under banners insisting on their apolitical character.

"Neither Right nor Left, but united against the reform", the banners proclaimed, while students chanted the slogan that has become almost a signature tune of their demonstrations: "Hot, hot, the spring will be hot!"

The clash with the shopkeepers, cafe owners, hairdressers, and other small businessmen came as demonstrators tried to break through police lines in an attempt to reach the headquarters of the government office of Trade and Commerce on the Quai Branly.

The enraged demonstrators hurled stones and other objects at the police, and erected a barricade across the Avenue Bosquet with paving stones and other material from nearby road-works.

As the mass protests continued throughout France, M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, insisted that there was no question of the Government's accepting any "slippage" in its economic targets. He hinted strongly at the possible introduction of new, even more stringent, austerity measures.

"The Mauroy plan, mark three, is still in force," he said in an interview with Agence France Presse. "I believe in the policy that I am pursuing. I am determined that it will succeed, and I am convinced that it will!"

Shelling in Beirut worst since siege

From Katherine Dourian Beirut

Just when it appeared that diplomatic efforts to bring peace to Lebanon might bear fruit, Beirut came under the heaviest shelling yesterday since the Israeli siege last summer. Both Christian and Muslim sectors of the capital and its outskirts were struck by 130mm shells and mortar rounds.

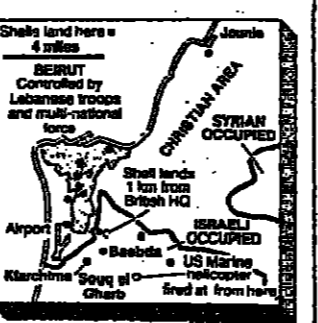
At least eight people were killed and 27 others wounded in the shelling that began without warning at 11.45am local time, catching most residents by surprise. One man was reportedly killed when a rocket smashed through his bathroom wall, killing him instantly as he bathed.

A US Marine Huey-type helicopter that took off from Beirut airport on a reconnaissance flight to determine the source of the shelling came under fire and had to turn back after the shots punched three holes into it. Colonel James Mead, commander of the US Marine contingent of the international peacekeeping force, was in the aircraft but neither he nor the pilot was hurt.

Major Fred Lash, a spokesman for the Marines, said the 50 calibre rounds were fired from the mountain village of Souk el Ghard in the Israeli-occupied Aley district. The village is a stronghold of the Christian militia.

The shelling came after fighting had intensified this week between the right-wing Christian Lebanese Forces and the left-wing Druze of the Socialist Progressive Party. The fighting had been concentrated mainly in the mountainous south-east of Beirut, occasionally spilling over to the south-eastern suburbs.

LONDON: Mr Nicholas Barrington, head of the British interests section at the Swedish Embassy in Tehran since 1981, has been appointed Ambassador to Lebanon in succession to Sir David Roberts who is retiring.



Thatcher rejects Soviet proposals for missiles

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday rejected Soviet proposals to include the British strategic nuclear force within the Geneva talks over intermediate nuclear forces, although she welcomed the offer by Mr Andropov, the Soviet leader, to negotiate about the numbers of warheads rather than missiles.

As it was announced that Mrs Thatcher would be having a debate next Tuesday and Wednesday on defence and disarmament, Mr Thatcher and Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, clashed in the Commons over the Government's response to the Soviet move.

The Prime Minister said that the British nuclear deterrent was at the "irreducible minimum" after Mr Foot had argued that if the Government blocked the proposal to include the British nuclear force in the talks, the conference might be wrecked. He later described Mrs Thatcher's response as "hopelessly inadequate".

Mrs Thatcher had said it was totally wrong to suggest that Britain's last resort submarine-based nuclear weapons should be included in the INF talks which were about land-based

Control of cruise is clarified

By Rodney Cowton Defence Correspondent

The controversy over the deployment of cruise missiles has led to clarification of the 1951 agreement with the United States governing the use of nuclear weapons based in Britain.

It has been established that the agreement for joint decision-making would apply to cruise missiles, not only on their bases at Greenham Common and Molesworth, but also when deployed up to 100 miles away in times of tension.

The Government has rejected demands for "dual-key" control because it is satisfied with the 1951 agreement. However, it is understood that persistent questioning about the precise details of the agreement led to consultations with the American Government to make certain that it satisfactorily covered the mobile cruise missiles.

Until now the standard public reference to the 1951 agreement by the Prime Minister and others has been to the effect that the use of bases in Britain for mounting nuclear operations in an emergency would be a matter for joint decision by the Government and the United States Government in the light of the circumstances prevailing at the time.

However, it has been suggested that cruise missiles might be dispersed up to 100 miles from their bases. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said in Parliament on Tuesday that the 1951 agreement "specifically provides that no weapons or bases used by the Americans under agreements with us will be used without the joint decision of the President and the Prime Minister".

Property Report 1983. United Kingdom France Germany and USA. Investment Market, Office Market, Industrial and Retail Market, Hotels, Petrol Filling Stations, Plant and Machinery, Legislation and General Practice. Weatherall Green & Smith. 22 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1LT. 01-405 6944.

Parachutist injured in saving Red Devils colleague from crashing

By Craig Seton

A leading member of the Red Devils parachute team was in hospital with a broken back yesterday after he saved a colleague from plummeting 1,000ft to his death when a spectacular mid-air manoeuvre went wrong.

Sergeant-major Kenneth Yeoman, aged 37, of The Parachute Regiment, caught hold of Corporal Kenneth Campbell, aged 25, when his colleague's parachute collapsed, and held on even when his own canopy partially folded, and the two hit the ground.

Sergeant-major Yeoman landed on his spine. He was rushed to Truro hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery. He was said yesterday to be partially paralysed in his legs.

Corporal Campbell managed a correct parachute landing and suffered only severe bruising and shock.

The accident happened on Wednesday night over RAF St Mawgan, Cornwall, where nine members of the Red Devils were practising a jump from 10,000ft from an Islander aircraft.

Captain Michael Munn, the team leader, who witnessed it

from the ground, said: "If it had not been for Sergeant-major Yeoman's cool head throughout it could have been even worse for Corporal Campbell than it was for him."

He said the two had dropped 7,000ft, most of it before



Sergeant-major Yeoman (left) and Corporal Campbell (right) when their parachutes collapsed.

opening their parachutes, when they started a manoeuvre called canopy relative work. This involves the two men linking their straps so that Sergeant-major Yeoman would be positioned immediately above his colleague, giving the appearance that he was standing on his shoulders.

Then the corporal's parachute collapsed. Captain Munn said: "They were still more than 1,000ft up and Corporal Campbell may well have fallen from there. The Sergeant-major made sure that the corporal was secure and it looked as if both men would get down on the one parachute, certainly to a hard landing, but reasonably safely."

The second parachute then partially collapsed. Captain Munn said: "It still had some lift, but the two men came down the last 80ft at 60 degrees and very fast. It was obvious right away that the Sergeant-major was badly hurt."

Sergeant-major Yeoman's wife visited him yesterday. He has three children and lives in married quarters at Aldershot. He has been with the Red Devils for four years and was to have led the team in a display in Berlin this month.

Given a new lease of life by a change of heart

By Our Science Editor

Mr Paul Coffey, aged 27, received his new heart on February 26, 1980. Before the operation he could scarcely sit up in bed; last Saturday he was playing his regular game of football.

He said yesterday: "I feel almost fitter than before I was taken ill, but that is probably because I am aware of the need to keep in shape. And that means sticking to a sensible diet and only an occasional drink."

The illness that nearly killed him, Mr Coffey now regards as only an interruption. But he believes he had an advantage because his wife was a nursing sister and so understood what was involved medically and psychologically. Mr Coffey, who was a change nurse before the transplant, is now a clinical teacher in psychiatry at New Cross Hospital and is studying for higher examinations later this year.

Yet four years ago it was the severest exertion to walk 25 yards. Today he cycles and plays cricket, and squash racquets as well as football.

The deterioration that led to the need for a new heart was quite rapid. It began the previous summer with a violent attack of stomach pain. That was followed by a general debility, which resembled a severe bout of influenza. At first doctors suspected he had one of the exhausting systemic infections, such as glandular fever.

He was soon unable to walk a few hundred yards. A specialist in Birmingham diagnosed cardiac myopathy, a degeneration of the heart muscles, which was confirmed by Mr Terence English after Mr Coffey was referred to Papworth. The only remedy the doctors could offer was a transplant. Within five weeks he received a new heart.

Mrs Susan Coffey said: "Looking back on it, we did not seem to have time to be frightened. But more than anything else, the confidence of the staff at Papworth never gave us any feeling of doubt that it would not work, and confidence that Paul would be back to work."

Mr Coffey said: "The people at work have been a great help, because they accepted me back instantly as Paul Coffey and not some oddity."

"The main difference between now and before the heart condition is that I take a regular medication each day. But I take the necessary tablets as automatically as brushing my teeth. Every three months I have to attend a routine out-patient clinic; that takes only a matter of minutes. Once a year I check into Papworth for a full overhaul."



Ticking happily: Mr Coffey with his wife and son; giving his approval on cycling and (below) returning to football.



Transplant programmes face uncertain future

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Surgeons at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, have carried out the fifth heart transplant since the programme began in January, 1979.

The recipient was a former Post Office employee, aged 40, of Keighley, West Yorkshire. His operation, which started on Wednesday night and ended in the early hours of yesterday, was the 101st in Britain.

A hospital official said: "The operation went smoothly and his new heart is working well. The patient is a married man with a family, but the hospital is not releasing his name at the request of his relatives."

If the transplant work which started in 1968 but soon stopped in a glare of had publicity is included, then rather more than 101 heart replacements have been carried out in Britain. That number includes the "piggy-back" operations conducted by Mr Magdi Yacoub's team at Harefield Hospital, Middlesex, in which a donor heart is linked in parallel with a failing heart.

Yesterday's heart transplant operation at Papworth could be one of the last for some time because the future of heart replacements rests on the conclusions of a review

ordered 18 months ago by the Department of Health and Social Security. The purpose was to assess progress over the past four years at Papworth and Harefield. The report is due in September.

The two hospitals were nominated for the resumption of transplant surgery in January, 1979, after a gap of 10 years on the recommendation of the Government's Transplant Advisory Panel.

Uncertainty about the future comes at a time when the survival rate of transplant recipients is improving rapidly. In the two years after Dr Christian Barnard did the first heart-swap, in December, 1967, at Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, fewer than one in five patients survived each year, but the prospects now for survival for 12 months are better than eight in ten.

Furthermore, once past that hurdle, the five-year survival rate is expected to be 90 per cent. The longest surviving heart transplant patient is M Emmanuel Vitra, of Marseilles, a former wine salesman, now aged 61, who celebrated the fourteenth anniversary of his new heart at the end of last year.

By last summer, more than 750 heart transplants had been done in 74 countries. The greatest number have been



performed by a team working with Professor Norman Shumway at Stanford University, California. His achievements are better than those anywhere else. At the last meeting of the International Transplantation Society he reported on 254 transplants since 1968; of those, 87 were alive, the longest for twelve and a half years.

He attributes recent improvements in chances of survival to the introduction three years ago of a new anti-rejection drug, cyclosporin-A. Research continues for still more effective ways of combating rejection. Nevertheless, a shadow hangs over progress in science and medicine, lack of money.

Solicitors liable for crash damages

By Francis Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A firm of solicitors which failed to lodge a claim for compensation in time after a woman was injured in a car accident is liable for the heavy damages to which she is entitled, the House of Lords held yesterday.

Five Law Lords unanimously ruled that the solicitors must be held liable for the loss of a six-figure claim by Miss Lorna Deerness, aged 25, of Baldock, Hertfordshire, after she was rendered a paraplegic in an accident in 1977.

They upheld a Court of Appeal ruling last October that Miss Deerness could not proceed against the insurance company of the defendants because a clerk in A. E. Hamlin and Co, the firm of solicitors then handling the claim, omitted to serve a writ within the specified time.

Giving judgment, Lord Diplock said: "What this appeal is really about is a squabble between the solicitors' insurers and the Coruhill (Insurance Co) who were to pay the heavy damages to which the plaintiff is undoubtedly entitled."

He added that Miss Deerness would not suffer, as she had received £100,000, which was conditional on leave to appeal to the Lords being granted. She should now receive the balance, he said.

"The solicitors' insurers will have to pay out for a rise that they insured and for which they charged a premium; so they have suffered no injustice."

"Coruhill have had the good luck to escape having to pay out for a risk that they had insured and for which they too had charged a premium, but in liability insurance business, as between two insurers where the only question is which of them is to pay a claim, one cannot blame either insurer for taking advantage of his good luck."

Miss Deerness, who now works as a trainer at the North Hertfordshire Equitation Centre, where she used to jump, said yesterday: "Having had the £100,000 payment has eased the situation, but there is still the outstanding amount to be paid."

The final amount has yet to be agreed. *Law Report, page 19*

Glazier says he trapped Soviet spies

By Richard Evans

A double-glazing salesman claimed yesterday that it was he who helped to uncover the biggest haul of Russian spies for a decade while working in the Soviet Trade delegation in Highgate, north London.

Mr William Graham, aged 45, said he pinpointed up to thirty Russians in the Highgate complex involved in subversive activity, and reported his findings to British intelligence chiefs.

He said that his work as a M16 "mole" resulted in the expulsion of three Russians for spying activities, and predicted further expulsions.

In an interview with *The Standard*, the London evening newspaper, Mr Graham said he infiltrated the complex over an 18-month period after a chance offer to replace the buildings in the trade delegation in late 1979.

Mr Graham claimed that his work led to the expulsion of three spies, Mr Viktor Lazine in 1981, Mr Anatoli Zotov last December, and Mr Vladimir Chernov earlier this year.

In addition he said he uncovered a spy, code-named Charles, who had been operating in Britain for two years unknown to British security services.

He bugged the trade delegation for M16 with a transmitting device about the size of a 10p piece, and also helped to get in touch with a Russian who was subsequently compromised by intelligence to work for Britain when he returned to Moscow.

Mr Graham, a former police informant, said he agreed to work for M16 "because I am loyal to my country."

The work began when he became friendly with a man he met in the Queen's Head public house, in Crouch End, north London. The stranger turned out to be a member of the Soviet trade delegation, who said there would be some double glazing work at the Highgate premises.

Mr Graham's firm, formerly Palace Installations of Hornsey, which is now in liquidation, was awarded the £46,000 contract.

He got in touch with his Special Branch contact before being introduced to an M16 controller. Mr Graham said he was given a code name, a special telephone number to ring and a flat to go to in case of trouble. It was there that he was debriefed three or four times a week after starting the job in January, 1980.

He claimed that a bugging device planted under the lectern in the delegation's concert hall had helped to expose Mr Lazine, a second secretary at the Russian Embassy, who was expelled for attempting to recruit civil servants in government departments.

Aspinall is granted club licence

Mr John Aspinall was granted a gaming licence yesterday for the Curzon House Club, in Mayfair, London, after a three-day hearing by South Westminster Licensing Justices.

The casino, formerly owned by the Coral Leisure Group, lost its licence two years ago after the management was found using illegal methods to attract customers.

Mr Aspinall, aged 56, of Lyall Street, Belgrave, bought the club from the company. Five earlier applications failed because it was felt there were sufficient casinos in London.

Mr Aspinall agreed yesterday not to allow gambling at his other club, Aspinall's, in Knightsbridge, a small, exclusive casino for high-rolling gamblers, when the new club, to be called Aspinall Curzon, opens in eight months after renovations. He also owns Howells Zoo Park, near Canterbury, which he told the court was losing money.

Father is jailed for baby's death

James Hogan, aged 35, who smothered his son Ryan, aged eight months, with a cushion shortly before he was due to hand the child over to his estranged second wife, was jailed for 18 months yesterday at Preston Crown Court. Hogan, a sales representative, of Irwell Vale, Rossendale, Lancashire, admitted manslaughter.

Robbery theory in desecration

Grave robbers may have taken several thousand pounds of jewellery thought to be buried with the body of a woman at Theydon Bois, Essex. The local police have begun an investigation after the grave of Mrs Winifred De Maus, who died in 1978, was found uncovered on Wednesday.

Mrs De Maus died in her eighties. Yesterday police said they were trying to find a relative who lives on the Isle of Wight. A spokesman said it had been rumored that Mrs De Maus had been buried with a quantity of jewellery.

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Better homes bring fewer complaints

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

Britain's house builders are constructing better homes, of a higher standard, than they were 10 years ago. Since 1973 there has been a remarkable decline in the number of complaints about important structural defects in new homes.

An independent study by Duncan Fraser, a firm of actuaries, shows that the number of serious defects in newly built private houses has been significantly reduced since 1973, when almost 10,000 claims under the National Homebuilders Council certificate scheme were received. Last year claims had fallen to 4,500.

Under the scheme, which guarantees the main structures of a house for 10 years, a total of £2m was paid out last year

for genuine complaints. Although no strictly comparable figure is available for 1973, £1.2m has been paid on claims arising on homes built between 1971 and 1973.

Most of the awards made last year relate to structural defects in homes built before 1974 and cover houses and flats which were constructed during the 1970-73 boom.

The council said yesterday that claims totalling only £4m had been met on homes built since 1975, although that generation of houses will continue to be at risk until early into the next decade.

Present certificate schemes run for the first 10 years of the life of a house but do not come into operation until a house has been bought. During the aftermath of the property collapse in the mid-1970s

many home on sites all around the country lay empty for years until the market picked up again.

During the first two years of occupancy a householder is normally responsible for any defects which become apparent. For the next eight years home owners are covered by the certificate.

The average size of a claim settled last year was £3,300. Most complaints were in two areas, roofing and badly laid foundations. They cost almost £3m, half the total claims, to put right.

But it is the report from the actuaries that indicates the general improvement in building standards over the past 10 years. It states that the number of big structural problems occurring after seven years is down by half.

PARLIAMENT May 5 1983

Soviet offer an attempt to delude public

NUCLEAR DEBATE

The British nuclear deterrent is already at the irreducible minimum as a strategic last-resort nuclear deterrent, to deter anyone who wished to attack Britain, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons.

Opposition: Will she look afresh at the statement, apparently made by her Government that it will object to any proposition for including the British nuclear force among the matters to be discussed at the INF talks at Geneva?

Mr Ray Jenkins, Leader of the SDP: Is it not clear, however, that Mr Andropov's limited but significant step forward appears to have been much more coolly received in London than in Washington or Paris?

Strang: Concession to US Mrs Thatcher: The previous question referred only to one part of those proposals. The other part was that we should count the number of warheads and not just the number of missiles.

Nelson: Unilateralism guaranteed to be on station, are there to offer not only 600 intermediate range Soviet missiles aimed at our people and our friends in Europe, but also at the 2,400 intercontinental strategic nuclear weapons of the Soviet Union?

Changes made to stop and search powers for police

POLICE BILL

Several changes were made early today to the provisions in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill relating to the powers of the police to stop and search. The report stage of the Bill, which was adjourned at 1.37 am, resumes in the Commons on Monday.

Government had required the officer also to give his number to avoid confusion if two officers at the same station had the same name.

It had never been the law that someone lawfully stopped should be able to claim compensation though someone unlawfully stopped could do so.

Prisoners might be moved

HOME OFFICE

Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said he had plans to move some prisoners in London to prisons outside the capital.

Mr Whitelaw said that the British nuclear deterrent was already at the irreducible minimum as a strategic last-resort nuclear deterrent, to deter anyone who wished to attack Britain.

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Better deal for residents

MOBILE HOMES

Under the Mobile Homes Bill, the Government sought to improve still further the protection to mobile home residents while not adversely affecting the interests of site owners.

Classes: Mobile home owners would have automatic security tenure under the Bill as long as the site operator had control of the site.

who rented the pitch and rent officers had experience in dealing with pitch fees.

Depriving public of police protection

The organizers of demonstrations and marches in London must accept their responsibilities and the possible dangers of taking police protection away from others, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr Whitelaw said he could not give the figure without notice. If I were to send the bill to all those people who organized the demonstrations, the majority of them would be having considerable difficulties.

Mr Jenkins: Will she look afresh at the statement, apparently made by her Government that it will object to any proposition for including the British nuclear force among the matters to be discussed at the INF talks at Geneva?

Strang: Concession to US Mrs Thatcher: The previous question referred only to one part of those proposals. The other part was that we should count the number of warheads and not just the number of missiles.

Nelson: Unilateralism guaranteed to be on station, are there to offer not only 600 intermediate range Soviet missiles aimed at our people and our friends in Europe, but also at the 2,400 intercontinental strategic nuclear weapons of the Soviet Union?

Young: We have striven for a fair balance

Mr Edward Graham, an Opposition spokesman on the environment (Epsom, Edmonton, Lab), said the substantial improvements Labour had sought were contained in these new clauses and they were grateful.

application within six months of the offer or to decline the offer in writing within that period.

Without these amendments there was a danger that the courts would have no discretion and no option but to terminate an agreement, when the agreement had been breached.

Kohl stands firm despite pressure from right

Solid, old-fashioned, long-winded and rather dull is how most Germans have judged Chancellor Kohl's declaration of his Government's policies for the next four years.

From Michael Binyon, Bonn obstruction and would give full backing to West Germany's policy in Nato.

But Herr Vogel refused specifically to endorse Nato's arms modernization programme, and said his party wanted to know whether the intermediate arms talks in Geneva could be combined with talks on strategic weapons and whether the British and French missiles could be included.

Mr Jenkins: Will she look afresh at the statement, apparently made by her Government that it will object to any proposition for including the British nuclear force among the matters to be discussed at the INF talks at Geneva?

Strang: Concession to US Mrs Thatcher: The previous question referred only to one part of those proposals. The other part was that we should count the number of warheads and not just the number of missiles.

Italy picks June 26 as polling day

This weekend will see the first plunge by Italy's political leaders into the election campaign after the Cabinet yesterday set June 26 and 27 as polling days.

The Cabinet meeting lasted five minutes indicating that the Christian Democrats had abandoned hope of a date a week earlier. They argued that the summer holidays would have begun by the last week in June.

Tongues of parrots off the menu

Chinese gourmets in Hongkong are amused rather than angered over Westminster's ban on the serving of parrot tongues and monkey brains in restaurants.

Exercise at bunker was valuable

No instruction had been issued to chief executives of local authorities to be based within a certain radius of a nuclear shelter.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Solvent Abuse (Scotland) Bill, report; Charities Bill, report; Dog Control (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and Age Discrimination Bill, second readings; Lords (11): Private members' Bill: Parochial Charities (Neighbourhood Trusts) Bill, second reading.

Cults buying farm land

The Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, which amends the law relating to termination of tenancies and variation of rent of agricultural holdings in Scotland, was read a second time in the House of Lords.

Stumbling over poll question

Mr Thatcher, the Prime Minister once again refused in the Commons to be drawn on the subject of the election date, even though she was accused of putting party advantage before the country's good.

Making hotels pay more for TV rejected

Putting further burdens on hotels by making them pay a licence fee for each television set they had was not the answer to helping pensioners with their licence fees.

Bizarre killings at rally

Manila (Reuters) - At least 36 people died in a bizarre circumstances at a month-long religious rally in the southern Philippines, according to the Health Ministry.

Train of the future: A double gates system seen operating on the new automated underground system in Lille, France.

The system is controlled by a five-man crew through 25 video screens which map the trains progress every two seconds. Controllers can talk to passengers through a telephone in each carriage.

Princess braves modern perils of the turbulent Khyber Pass

From Michael Hamlyn, Landi Kotal, North-West Frontier Province

The arrest of the drug king of the Khyber 10 days ago cleared the way for the visit of Princess Anne yesterday to the mountainous pass leading to Afghanistan.

She was the first distinguished visitor to be allowed here for six months ever since Mr William French Smith, the American Attorney-General, had an uncomfortable time when he arrived in the streets of the town in search of drug factories.

Not until the Princess's visit was actually under way was it finally decided that the pass was safe enough to allow her to drive up here. A visit to a dam and hydro-electric project had been planned as an alternative. Even so, she was not allowed to within less than six miles of the border.

After Mr French Smith's visit, the Pakistan authorities agreed with the elders of the two principal tribal groups in the pass to clamp down on the drug trade, which had developed so fast that the Khyber had taken the place of the Golden Triangle in South-East Asia as the drug capital of the world.

Twenty-seven drug processing plants were closed down, but the elders of one tribe were not able to control their young men and six new plants were soon opened up. Bullets flew in the valleys over the rivalry that followed. Shaikh Jumor, aged 35, owned four of the new stills.

According to Mr Jahanzeb Khan, the Commissioner for Peshawar, Shaikh Jumir was buying opium in Afghanistan, processing it in the Khyber valleys, and shipping it to the US and Europe. The British authorities say the 80 per cent of heroin on the streets of London comes from Pakistan.

Shaikh Jumir was arrested in Landi Kotal by the Pakistan authorities who used a ruse, which they will not disclose, to trap him. "We might want to use the trick again," said Mr Khan, "so we cannot reveal how we did it."

With Shaikh Jumir behind bars in Peshawar sentenced by a military tribunal to three years in jail - "I favour a public flogging for him, as an example to others," said Mr Khan - the pass exploded into rioting. The tribal elders were warned again that the Pakistan authorities would react with the utmost vigour if the disturbances did not stop, and an uneasy calm had now descended.

According to Mr Shakeel Durrani, the Khyber political agent, Shaikh Jumir has caused the authorities more trouble than any other single individual. "He has contacts all over the world," he said, "I call this man the heroin king."

So, instead of a traditional deise past this teeming town and a visit to a spectacular viewpoint where visitors can look down to the valleys and

dark gullies that the Mujahidin and drug smugglers use in and out of the Soviet-occupied country, the Princess had to be content with the bleak grandeur of the drive along the rocky way to the headquarters of the Khyber Rifles here. She halted at the insignia of British regiments, carved into the hillside, and kept ever freshly painted.

She swept past the reassuring sight of a policeman, draped in bandoliers, and asked to the teeth standing every few hundred yards along the rocky way. To be fair, though, most of the male inhabitants of these parts were also walking around equally draped.

She was treated to a military occasion which might not have seemed out of place at Camberley. She had lunch in the officers' mess, sat afterwards on the lawn under the shade of a walnut tree for a display of dancing, and then sat formally for a regimental photograph. A pipe band greeted her, playing an immaculate "Scotland the Brave", and sped her on her way with "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow".

Her meal consisted of curried lamb, and bread baked on hot stones. She was presented with garlands of flowers and tinsel, and the dancing involved much whirling about and waving of swords.

The Princess rejoined the Andover of the Queen's Flight last night to return home.



Mitterrand defends Vietnam policy

President Mitterrand of France with Mr Deng Xiaoping, China's elder statesman (left), during talks in Peking yesterday. Mr Deng greeted reporters with a "Bonjour" and said France could put pressure on Vietnam to withdraw from Cambodia. Mitterrand had earlier defended France's relationship with Vietnam and its refusal to grant recognition to

the coalition of forces fighting for a Vietnamese withdrawal, David Bonavia writes.

He told a press conference on Wednesday that was anxious that Vietnamese troops should leave Cambodia, and that the country should achieve self-determination and neutrality through free elections. But "the coalition does not exercise enough

pressure on Vietnam. I am afraid of a return to the previous methods."

Mitterrand and Mr Deng had wide-ranging talks on multilateral and bilateral affairs. Mitterrand also met Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister. The President emphasized France's advanced technology, which could, he said, be put to use in the development of China's economy.

Nakasone defends free trade record

From David Watts, Singapore

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, yesterday headed off any potential criticism of Japan at the forthcoming Williamsburg economic summit with a strong presentation of his country's role as a defender of free trade.

After his criticisms of protectionism in the West on the opening day of his visit to Singapore, Mr Nakasone said that no other country in the world had done as much as Japan to open up its domestic markets over the past two years.

Tokyo, he said, had made four successive moves to open its domestic market and cited the 50 per cent increase in quotas for imported industrial products under the generalized system of preferences which is the principal gift to Asean which he has brought on his first visit to the South-East Asia region. Japan had promised to present the views of less developed countries at Williamsburg.

Under the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), rules Japan's residual import tariffs were now lower than some European countries, especially on agricultural products and Japan's low level of import tariffs on industrial goods now led the world.

Mr Nakasone said average tariff levels on imported industrial goods were about five per cent in the EEC, four plus per cent in the United States and about three per cent for Japan.

Things were moving too on the non-tariff barrier front, according to the Prime Minister, who said he had initiated revision of 18 existing laws which would simplify imports.

Japanese largesse has been parsimonious by its standard of aid to other Asean countries towards Singapore has the greatest wealth per capita, and more importantly, the leading economic problem between the two countries is likely to mean further expensive outlay for Japan.

The problem is over-support for the big petrochemical complex which is being built in Singapore with Japanese Government loans as a joint venture with Sumitomo Chemical. The complex should have been in production a year ago, but the world market for petrochemicals long since collapsed and the Papanese side is in no hurry to start production which can only mean even greater losses when taken on top of the debt servicing already required.

Hu arrives in Romania to patch relations

Bucharest (AP) - Mr Hu Yaobang, the Chinese Communist Party leader, arrived here on an official visit that signalled a Chinese diplomatic offensive in Eastern Europe.

President Ceausescu of Romania greeted his guest with two ceremonial kisses, and a guard of honour shouted "long live the Comrade General-Secretary," as Mr Hu acknowledged the cheers of about 3,000 flag-waving Romanians at Otopeni airport.

The welcome appeared to be much less lavish than the one given to former Chairman Hua Guofeng, the last Chinese leader to visit Eastern Europe, in 1978. It is the first trip for Mr Hu since he took over as general-secretary of the party in June, 1981.

Britain's contribution to Europe may be cut by 10 per cent

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Agriculture would receive less and less from an enlarged budget for the European Community under plans announced yesterday by the European Commission.

If adopted in its present form, this scheme could have the effect of reducing Britain's contribution to the Community by around 10 per cent in the short term.

The Commission believes that the long-term impact of the new system would be to develop new policies in non-agricultural areas which would directly benefit Britain.

Once the new system was working there would be no need for rebates to Britain. But until then the Commission believes special measures will be necessary to satisfy British demands for a more fairly balanced budget. Any agreed rebates, however, will have to take into account the view that Britain received "too much" money back over the past three years.

The plans are meant to provide a whole new approach to the financing of the Community, replacing the present method of raising money which dates back to April 1970, and which is incapable of providing the budget with all the cash now needed.

The liquidity crisis has come about essentially because agricultural spending is so large that there is not enough money left to finance projects which could tackle the most important problems facing the Community: unemployment and industrial decline.

Fresh approach to EEC finances

Britain as an industrial rather than agricultural nation has suffered worse than any other country from its imbalance and its insistent pressure for a fairer system has forced the pace for reform.

Although urgently needed if the Community is to avoid going bankrupt, the new project is at best not going to be agreed until the Commission is preparing its draft budget for 1985 in a year's time.

This is because an essential element of the project involves raising the present ceiling on value-added tax revenues above the level agreed in 1970. This in turn means that the changes would need ratification by the Parliament of every member state - a long process after a long and difficult negotiation in the Council of Ministers which

would itself have to agree unanimously a new package. The Commission proposes ways of cutting back agricultural spending and raising any extra money needed to fund farm prices by new mechanisms.

This would leave a larger part of the existing budget free for other purposes. To this would be added the extra money from value-added tax revenues.

In very broad terms this would mean that the agricultural share of the budget would drop from its present level of around two-thirds of all available money to about a quarter.

The main points of the proposals are: ● Agriculture: Only 33 per cent of the total budget to be used on supporting CAP. Extra CAP money to be raised according to three indicators -

Chamberlain returns to Darwin jail

From Tony Duboucin, Melbourne

Mrs Lindy Chamberlain, convicted of the murder of her baby daughter, Azaria, is likely to wait until the end of June before she will know whether her plea to seek special leave to appeal to the High Court of Australia has been granted.

She will spend that time in Darwin's Berrimah jail where she was moved on Wednesday from Mulawa jail. She had been held there since last Friday after her appeal against her conviction of the murder of her 13-week-old daughter at Ayers Rock in August, 1980, was unanimously rejected.

Mrs Chamberlain was released on bail last November for the birth of her daughter Kahlika.

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You may think you learnt by rote, but it could have been by 'morphic resonance'. Dr Rupert Sheldrake (right) has set the scientific world in turmoil with his theory that living things 'tune in' to the knowledge of their predecessors

Are we all on the same wavelength?

By Peter Lewis

Are children quicker at learning to ride bicycles, or to roller skate, than they were at the turn of the century? Will tomorrow's children be quicker at learning to play video or computer games than the present generation? If so, could it be because they are able to "tune in" to the skills acquired by their predecessors?

The answers to these questions, if they could be accurately measured, might throw light on a radically new hypothesis which claims to explain what shapes the forms and behaviour of living things.

The theory of "formative causation" is advanced by Dr Rupert Sheldrake, whose name has been both celebrated and execrated among his fellow-biologists since he published a book called *A New Science of Life* nearly two years ago. In it he proposed that the embryos of living things "tune in" to a field created by past members of the same species - an undiscovered force in nature which operates on the simplest cell up to the most complex organism.

He calls it a "morphogenetic field", which operates across space and time by "morphic resonance" - from the Greek for form, *morphe*, and the sort of resonance whereby one musical instrument makes another vibrate. He believes that developing creatures receive, rather like a radio programme put out by past exemplars of their kind, a pattern-making transmission which makes legs into legs, arms into arms, and which makes frogs behave in a froggy fashion and dogs in a doggy one.

Sheldrake had respectable scientific credentials as a plant biologist, fellow

of Clare College, Cambridge, and holder of a research fellowship of the Royal Society; but his hypothesis caused a furor. It postulated a new, immaterial force of nature that did not involve matter or energy and it conflicted head-on with the mechanistic faith that everything can be reduced to physics and chemistry.

What of genetic programming? What of DNA? What of natural selection? Sheldrake believes their importance has been exaggerated. They are like the valves and copper wire connexions of a radio set: the actual programme is transmitted from somewhere else.

Denouncing Sheldrake as a heretic in a passionate and interperate editorial, the editor of *Nature* magazine was appalled that this "infuriating tract" as being hailed as an answer to materialistic science. Sheldrake was not only wrong, he was encouraging the thought that "there might be a place for magic in science."

The *New Scientist*, on the other hand, championed Sheldrake's right to be heard and to be judged by experiment. It pointed out that "modern science itself is founded on a hypothesis that has not been specifically tested: that the materialist explanations are all that is required."

Both journals' correspondence columns sizzled like heated retorts for months. The *New Scientist* offered a £250 prize for the best idea for an experiment to test whether morphic resonance indeed exists. Meanwhile, the Tarrytown Group, a scientific ideas forum in Tarrytown, New York,

offered a prize of \$10,000 for the best test that confirms or refutes the hypothesis by 1983, open to anyone, scientist or not.

Now the *New Scientist* has announced the winning entry in its competition, a simple and cheap experiment, which could be carried out in schools, to test whether learning something is made easier by the fact that many other people - preferably millions of them - have learnt it before you.

The winner, a fluid mechanics lecturer from Nottingham, Dr Richard Gentle, argues that according to Sheldrake a nursery rhyme, such as "Twinkle, twinkle, little star", should be very easy to learn because of all the children who have learnt it in the past.

The problem is to find a comparable rhyme to test it against, and enough people who do not know the rhyme already. So he chose a four-line Turkish nursery rhyme, known to generations of Turkish children, and altered the word-sequence to produce a similar looking rhyme, which is in fact gibberish, though only a Turkish-speaker could tell the difference.

The idea is to invite groups of pupils in schools to learn one or other of the rhymes, timing how long it takes them to repeat one of them by heart. Then the average learning time for the genuine rhyme and the fake can be compared, nobody involved knowing which was which.

If the genuine rhyme is learnt more quickly, it could have been helped along by the pooled memory field of all

those Turkish children. But will the result settle the matter? Not on its own, certainly. It is too wide-ranging a theory to be settled by a nursery rhyme and Sheldrake has devised other experiments.

If rats learn a new trick, other rats in other laboratories should become quicker at learning it. This effect was discovered by the psychologist, William McDougall, at Harvard, in the 1920s. Successive generations of his rats improved their speed of learning how to escape from a tank of water by means of a gangway.

This did not prove that they had inherited the ability. When the experiments were repeated in Australia, with unrelated strains of rats as controls, it was found that it made no difference which rats were used, their descendants all improved their performance.

Sheldrake has proposed a new experiment with rats in widely separate laboratories, to see if they affect one another's rate of learning as McDougall's rats seem to have done. Other experiments are possible with the growing of new crystals, with mutations in fruit-flies and with learning video games in, say, rural India.

If the theory is right, should we not have noticed its effect by now? Sheldrake believes we have. He says: "One of the mysteries of learning language is that babies do it so fast compared to adults. This applies also to an English baby learning Chinese, in Chinese surroundings, or visa versa. Children pick up the rules of the game, without text-books of grammar and

start making up new sentences, using the language creatively.

"This sort of creative learning should be impossible on a stimulus-response model of learning. It led Chomsky to postulate an innate language ability, no matter what language, and therefore a 'deep structure' that all languages had in common. I believe it is morphic resonance at work. Any child picking up English, or Chinese, is assisted by the pool of previous learning of either language."

Sheldrake interrupted a well-established Cambridge career when he was in his thirties by going to Hyderabad to work at the International Crop Research Institute on improving strains and yields. He lived in a rajah's crumbling palace and his mind was freed to develop his theory. In 1978 he went to an ashram run by a Benedictine monk and wrote it down, in a hut under a banyan tree, on the banks of the river Cauvery in Southern India. After 18 months' work he brought back the first draft to his home in Newark, Nottinghamshire.

What made him start on his new science of life? It was the inability of current biology to account for the development of the plants he was working on. Cells that become leaves and cells that become stalks carry exactly the same DNA. The process of becoming a plant, a fish, a mammal or a human being is equally mysterious. The orthodox response is that one day we will be able to explain it in terms of incredibly complex interactions of physics and chemistry between cells,

triggered by a DNA code. This is an act of faith. It is at least as simple, and perhaps more intelligible, to imagine the process being conducted by morphogenetic fields.

The fields account more easily for the amazing capacity of living things to regenerate or repair themselves. "If you cut off parts of an embryo, it regenerates the missing parts. If you cut a magnet in half you get two complete magnetic fields, not two halves", Sheldrake points out. "In both cases the field maintains its integrity."

A kind of Conservation of Form principle could account for the way the eye of a newt, robbed of its lens, will grow a new one out of its own iris, or the way any gardener can raise a whole plant from a small cutting. It could explain how flesh, bones and fingernails make good damage done to them.

"I am not the first person to suggest that morphogenetic fields are needed to explain development," said Sheldrake. "What is new about my interpretation is that the fields derive their structure from the past. What gives a fingernail field a fingernail structure? Plato held that somewhere there was an eternal, archetypal fingernail. I say that the field is caused by actual fingernails of the past, a kind of pooled memory."

Changes usually occur because the normal pathway is blocked, perhaps by a genetic defect or by a change in environment. Sometimes this defeats the organism. But in certain rare cases there is a creative jump. "This can be seen when animals learn a new behaviour pattern. About 1952 blue tits learned how to open milk bottle tops and the habit spread through the tit population of Europe. Copying hardly seemed an adequate explanation of such a sudden and widespread new habit. Perhaps, after enough tits had learned the trick, a morphic resonance was set up affecting the rest."

Sheldrake's hypothesis meets the criterion of a scientific theory - it is verifiable by experiments which could prove its predictions. Sheldrake is eager to have it put to as many tests as possible. But supposing it fails the test - or that no confirmatory evidence can be found, what then? "If the balance of evidence is against it, I would have to abandon the theory," he says. "The possibility would remain that morphogenetic fields exist, though not created by past examples. They could be timeless, changeless principles, rather like Plato's archetypes. Or perhaps the mechanistic theory will ultimately explain everything without them."

His ideas have certainly caused a lot of excitement and attention: this week he goes to California, where he is already well known, to lecture on them. In June, he has been asked to go to Washington to address the Congressional Committee on The Future about his theory and its implications. And, who knows, somebody may even now be conducting the make-or-break experiment that may fundamentally alter our understanding of how life in its multifarious forms comes about.



Rupert Sheldrake

The Brooklyn Museum, New York



Brooklyn Bridge 1981, a view by artist Donald Burns

One of New York's famous landmarks is 100 years old this month

The bridge so far . . .

One of the longest journeys in the world, Norman Podhoretz wrote, finding a particularly apt metaphor for the American Dream, is the journey from Brooklyn to Manhattan. The concrete symbol of that American aspiration is the Brooklyn Bridge, which celebrates its 100th birthday this month.

Even when it was new, the bridge assumed a mythic stature. An architectural critic, Montgomery Schuyler, welcomed it in 1883 with these words: "It so happens that the work which is likely to be our most durable monument, and convey some knowledge of us to the most remote posterity, is not a work of bare utility; not a shrine, not a fortress, not a palace . . ."

New Yorkers are preparing to celebrate the anniversary, but one trusts that the festivities will not be as hectic as those of the opening week, when such a massive holiday crowd surged on to the bridge that 12 people were trampled to death. Yet that was rather characteristic. From the beginning, sufficient urgency attended the construction of the bridge to make it a truly heroic enterprise, and one that was immediately perceived as an expression of something in the American spirit.

Its progenitor, John A. Roebling, a German-born en-

gineer, was killed by it. Roebling was one of those stern, determined characters that the nineteenth century specialised in producing the world over. Having emigrated in 1831, he founded a German settlement called Saxtonburg, in Pennsylvania, where he intended to farm and, of all things, breed canaries.

Though the township prospered, Roebling's own means of support proved unsatisfactory, and he turned to making iron rope - the first in the United States. It was used in the cable railways that crossed the mountains of the state. Soon he was building suspension bridges, most spectacularly across the Niagara Falls and also in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

The reverse side of his scientific rationalism was a passionate but unfounded belief in hydropathy - the curing of illnesses by bathing. When, down by the Brooklyn waterfront prospecting the site for one of the bridge towers, his foot was crushed by a docking boat, his response was to plunge it instantly into a tub of cold water. Tetanus set in and he died in horrible suffering three weeks later.

That was in 1869. His son, Colonel Washington A. Roebling, who had played a notable

part at Gettysburg, took over, and the bridge led him to a permanent invalid. The problem was the technique used to build the vast towers, each weighing 70,000 tons, on either side of the East River.

To sink the foundations, great bottomless wooden boxes called caissons - each half the size of a city block - were constructed, submerged by means of stones piled on the top, and pumped full of compressed air, which kept them watertight. Gangs of unskilled immigrant labourers, on the whole pleased to find jobs that paid more than the average, entered by means of airlocks and quarried down to bedrock by hand.

But some workers developed cramps and headaches and were seen to walk with a scoop, thereafter referred to as the "Grecian Bend" (the name of a ballroom dance). This malady was, of course, the bends, still known medically as caisson disease. After a long spell in one of the caissons when fire broke out in 1871, Washington Roebling collapsed.

Attacks recurred and he was forced to withdraw from the work altogether, lying in agony in a darkened room, although he finally recovered sufficiently to direct work from his house in

Brooklyn, overlooking the site. Twenty-five men lost their lives while the bridge was being built. Many died from the bends - their legs, according to one contemporary account of their sufferings, "twisted like plaited hair". Because of the danger, the Manhattan caisson was stopped before bedrock was reached, so that the tower rests on packed sand. Some men fell from the towers or were killed when a suspension wire snapped and lashed back.

The bridge, 14 years in building, was subject to the graft and corruption inherent in most great American public works of the time. The notorious Tammany Hall politician, "Boss" Tweed, managed to gain control of the bridge company and award contracts, until he was imprisoned.

All Roebling's vigilance was necessary to prevent J. Lloyd Haigh, the cable contractor, from forging certificates or switching loads and sending to the bridge steel that the inspectors had failed.

Yet almost at once the bridge captured the public imagination. Even before it was begun, a Congressman called Barnes declared: "Babylon had her hanging gardens, Nineveh her towers, and Rome her Colosseum; let us have this great

monument to progress."

When built, the towers - arched like the aisles of a Gothic cathedral - were among the city's tallest structures. head, shoulders and torso above the tenements of Brooklyn. To *Harper's Weekly*, they were "more wonderful than the Pyramids."

Needless to say, as soon as the bridge opened to the public there were those who either fell or deliberately threw themselves off it. A self-publicist swimming instructor called R. E. Odlum jumped to his death in 1885. Steve Brodie claimed to have leapt (he probably did not) and made a fortune out of reenacting the scene in a play called *On the Bowery*. The youth slipping from the catwalk in the film *Saturday Night Fever* is only the latest in a tradition.

In recent years, real-life tragedies have also occurred. In 1981, a pedestrian was killed when a stay parted and whipped downwards. But the engineers are confident that the bridge, built with human sacrifice and occasionally still exacting its toll, will survive another century yet.

Clive Aslett
The author is senior architectural writer for Country Life.

The notion that classical music is a stuffy kind of art received a severe knock this last week when the *Radio Times* informed its four million readers that Brahms, when young, had earned a living playing the piano in brothels in Hamburg. This came as a shock both to the pop fraternity, who thought that only the Beatles ever got started in Hamburg, and to jazz fans, who were under the impression that only Jelly Roll Morton got started in a brothel.

Morton, who had a diamond set in his teeth, played champion pool, pimped, claimed to have invented jazz and had a long-running rivalry with Duke Ellington, was actually a pale character when set beside Brahms. It is often forgotten that Brahms, too, claimed to have discovered jazz, though this was due to a misunderstanding for which he was not responsible.

It happened in the cotton fields near Budapest one day, when Brahms was out for a walk, trying to dream up another trick to play on Wagner - the Duke Ellington of his day. He gradually became aware that the workers in the fields were singing alluring and dangerously exciting rhythms as they turned the cotton into drip-dry tunics for the Imperial Court. Brahms's fingers snapped and his eyes sparkled.

"Hey, what do you call that kind of music?" he asked one of the singers.

"What do we call dat music?" said the man thus addressed, played by the young Louis Armstrong. "Why, we call dat music jazz."

This was a mischievous invention on his part, as they actually called it Hungarian folk music, but he reckoned that the young man with the mane of white hair and huge grey beard

Play it again, Johannes

MOREOVER . . . Miles Kingston

He would fall for it. He was right. Hastily establishing that the folk tunes were not in copyright, Brahms turned them into concert display pieces and played them in brothels all over the world. At the end of the programme he would slam the keyboard lid shut, jump up and shout: "And that's jazz!"

As nobody knew what he was talking about, they preferred to call it Hungarian Dances, but either way, as they put it back in the cotton fields, they done stole our music again.

Brahms was always secretly disappointed that the stuffed shirt audiences didn't show more reaction, and he would often break off in the middle of a piece and observe drily to the listeners: "This place is licensed for dancing, you know."

"Just typical of Wagner," growled Brahms afterwards, "to send in a dog for a big gig." He later got his own back when he thrashed Wagner at snooker in the big Bayreuth Finals, 16 frames to three, and went on to meet the Russian champion, Tchajkovsky, whom he always considered rather too effete to be a really good snooker player.

Brahms was a larger-than-life character who had diamonds set in all the white keys of his travelling piano. Before he branched into a new town, the place would be plastered with posters saying: "Brahms is coming! All pianists are requested to leave town for their own safety." And then the great man himself would arrive, in a white suit, surrounded by bodyguards and attended personally by the Abbé Liszt. The first thing he would ask on arrival was the address of the

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 54)

ACROSS

- 1 Ambassador's aid (7)
- 5 Trade name (5)
- 8 Girl (3)
- 9 Signing (7)
- 10 Foreigner (5)
- 11 Point (4)
- 12 Sealy creature (7)
- 14 Ingeniousness (13)
- 16 Fine fabric (7)
- 18 Verbal (4)
- 21 Italian fruit (5)
- 22 Fortified place (7)
- 23 Low (3)
- 24 Bird of prey (5)
- 25 Rifle knife (7)

DOWN

- 1 Military force (4)
- 2 Land (5)
- 3 Play equipment (4)
- 4 Month (5)
- 5 Impiously (15)
- 6 Obstinate (7)
- 7 Ballerina (8)
- 8 Follower (8)
- 15 Concealing (7)
- 17 Rich man (5)
- 19 Birdlike (5)
- 20 Join (4)

SOLUTION TO No 53

ACROSS: 1 Unwrap 5 Dignity 8 Leo 9 Ruffia 10 Report 11 Chut 12 Decorous 13 Object 15 January 17 Ballistic 20 Fear 22 Cuddis 23 Zigzag 24 Fez 25 Talent 26 Indian

DOWN: 2 Neath 3 Referee 4 Flanidit 5 Doric 6 Paper 7 Circuit 14 Bravely 15 Jaccuzi 16 Unpagged 18 Ledges 19 Theft 21 Abaca

(Solution to No 54 on Monday) Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise English

مركز الامارات

A man about the house

Swapping domestic roles seems to do more for sexual equality than the nagging of liberationists. Veronica Grocock talks to three couples who switched roles as a result of necessity after the husbands became redundant

John and Sue Tanner are in their late thirties and live in Scunthorpe. They own their home and have two children, William, aged 11, and Robert, aged nine. John, a former community relations officer, was made redundant in October. Sue is a welfare rights worker, a job she was offered only weeks before the news of John's redundancy. Previously she worked part-time at a local women's aid group, and before that was a full-time housewife.

Sue's John has always been the sort of husband who did quite a lot at home. He took over a lot of the child care and housework. The problem for me is that my job is 25 miles away and I don't get paid as much as he did [just over £5,000 a year, compared with John's previous salary of £9,500].

Financial worries aside, Sue is enjoying the swap. "I sometimes worry about what would happen if I lost my job. Every breadwinner does, I suppose. But I do get quite a kick out of being the one who brings home the money, and it's nice coming home to a cooked meal. . . . We both felt that swapping jobs for a while would be good for us both. I am sure John is a lot more aware of what goes into running a house. Each of us appreciates the other more than we did before.

"I don't always agree with the way he does things, like shopping or cooking. He bakes bread and feels very protective about it, and if I go out and buy a loaf he resents it."

Although John pays the bills, the Tanners have always pooled their finances and have a joint bank account. The drop in salary has

meant a drop in their standard of living, with the "inevitable friction" if John wants to go to the pub.

Sue finds that being the breadwinner makes it far easier to treat home as a place of relaxation. "When you are at home with the children, there are always a hundred things you should be doing. You never actually relax. . . . Out at work, the lunch-hour is yours - time out for yourself."

John: "It's an opportunity to do things that one has always wanted. At 37 I have learned how to make pastry and bread, and I am keeping chickens. It's quite fun, as long as it doesn't go on too long." With a 30 per cent unemployment rate in Scunthorpe, the remark John regularly bears is "Lovely weather. Are you working?" He finds the isolation the hardest part.

"Your wife comes home from work and says 'Had an interesting day?' You say, 'I cleaned the upstairs lavatory' and suddenly realize how boring you've become. . . . At work you do have a lot of power and it's easier to feel you've done something. Even if you've sat there chewing your nails you've been to work and this is your justification for the day," said John.

On the plus side, John sees more of their sons ("I have it easy because they are growing up now. It's not an onerous responsibility"), and has more control of the money, if less of it to spend.

John admits to a very strong need to be in work. "I say it doesn't matter, but deep down it does. . . . Housewives are not valued very highly in society, and at the moment



Sue and Richard Ambrose: reassessment of less rigid roles

I'm a housewife and I don't really like it. The longer I go on the more desperate I shall become. But it has given Sue more status. I don't think she ever wanted to be a housewife at home with children. She is very happy at work and finds it stimulating and rewarding."

Jane and Peter Smith (not their real names) are in their fifties and live in a council house in Poole. They have three children, two still at home: a daughter, and a 22-year-old son who claims supplementary benefit. In June 1982 Peter, an electrical sales assistant, was made redundant after 27 years' service. Jane works for a firm of insurance brokers and her weekly take-home pay is £51. Peter was earning £4,000 a year plus commission.

Jane: "It was a crashing blow at Peter's time of life, because we thought we had gone through the worst years and were looking forward to an easier ride. All of a sudden we seemed to be back at square one." She gets angry, particularly at the bureaucratic anomalies, such as the provision of family income supplement, that militate against the married woman as breadwinner.

Things are unlikely to improve, she feels, until Peter finds another job. "I have always been on the side of the underdog, never dreaming that one day it would be me in that category." She worries constantly about the future. "There is this terrible uncertainty. I just don't know how it will end."

Peter: "Work was becoming an ordeal. I was being pressurized, and redundancy was suggested. I was

heading for a nervous breakdown. I thought 'if I don't get out of here soon I will crack up'." His initial reaction was sheer relief. "We managed to get a holiday in Crete, with part of my £3,000 redundancy money." Hopes of setting up his own business were dashed and he suffers from anxiety and depression and sometimes takes tranquilizers.

"I go to bed with a headache, and wake up with one. The tension affects my eyes. I have terrible eye strain. I sometimes think 'What is the point of going on? I only have a few pounds left in the bank. We are penniless. I've never been in this situation in my life.' The biggest problem is coping with the depression. 'You try to think of ways of getting out of this rut, but you keep coming across barriers. It's like being hemmed in."

He feels degraded. The strain of it all has affected his relationship with Jane. "She has been very concerned and a great help, but there is tension between us. Things are not as they once were. She looks very miserable and white at times. I try to keep a stiff upper lip. I say 'Cheer up. Things are bound to get better.' She says she can't see how they will."

qualified electrician, though recently he worked in a factory. He has been unemployed since January 1982. Sue is a residential social worker looking after young people in care at a local community home. Her weekly take-home pay is £65, which includes overtime and sleeping-in allowances. (She is also a qualified teacher and youth worker.)

Richard: "I can't see me getting a job anywhere, so this was the next best thing. because she's got opportunities, you see. so why waste them? I'm a male version of my mother (she's a part-time cleaner in a dockyard). My mother was very houseproud. She was always cleaning; it was one of her fortes. In the same way, I'm inclined to get too involved with it. We have our little ups and downs in this. I'll say: 'get out of the way, I want to clean there.' I suppose a lot of people must think I'm a bit weird."

Sue: "Even close friends who've known us for years - especially the men - tend to have digs at me. 'You've got him well-trained, haven't you?' Or, 'What's Rich doing, baby-sitting again?' At first it was quite amusing but after a while it wears off."

Richard is garrulous and good-humoured in faded denims, his long hair tied back hippy-style. Does he mind having to ask Sue for money? "Well, she never seemed to mind when she asked me for it."

Sue chips in: "It's not my money; it's ours. I mean, if it's there we spend it."

Like John Tanner, Richard has experienced the "lonely housewife" syndrome. "Half-past six I used to go to work. I'd see people on the bus. You just nodded to them. Occasionally you might pass words about the weather, but that was it. But they were still people. You absorbed something from them, whereas here, dogs apart, there's only Tarot, and trying to have an in-depth conversation with him is impossible!"



John and Sue Tanner. John says: 'I'm a housewife now and I don't really like it. Deep down being in work matters.'

MEDICAL BRIEFING

The light of life

It might be assumed that the influence of The Worshipful Company of Cutlers of London would have waned once the knife makers went north and abandoned Fleet Street to the journalists; but the ancient livery companies are adaptable. The modern Cutlers now take an interest in Surgical Instrument making. This month they presented their annual award to Mr B. Sterry Ashby, the surgeon, for his work with a special endoscope, an illuminated tube which allows the operator to look along the common bile duct.

The story of endoscopes started in the last century when Dr Kussman was inspired by watching a sword swallower. He reasoned that if the man could be made to swallow a tube it would be possible to look at the inside of his stomach.

Later electric torchlight in a rigid tube exposed the inside of some organs - gullet, stomach, bronchial tubes and colon - to the surgeon's gaze. But the discovery in 1928 by John Logie Baird of a method of transmitting light along a flexible glass-fibre bundle allowed the production of a whole range of flexible fibre-optic endoscopes.

Mr Sterry Ashby has been working with the manufacturers on his particular endoscope, known as a choledoscope, since 1974. If it had been invented 20 years earlier history might have been changed. Sir Anthony Eden's common bile duct was cut in a fruitless search for a stone. With this instrument direct vision of the inside of the duct could have been obtained and the means of retrieval of the stone, without causing near-fatal damage, made possible.

Dracula syndrome

Two psychiatrists in Cape Town have written a paper for the South African Medical Journal which suggests that a possible murder motive overlooked in the past is a bizarre desire to drink blood.

Dr R. E. Hemphill and Dr T. Zabow report in detail on three

cases where white middle-class males, not apparently of Transylvanian origin, have had this craving, satisfied only by taking blood from animals when still alive, or after death from the abattoirs, or by sucking blood from the necks and shoulders of their lovers. Denied these sources, they have cut their arms and wrists to drink their own blood.

In a review of these and other cases, who have attended Cape Town University's psychiatric department, they report that although women are inclined to be auto-vampires, usually drinking their own blood, men are reported to take other people's. They cite Haigh, the acid bath murderer, as a classic vampire; it is known that he murdered nine people, cut their throats and drank a cupful of blood from each.

Vampirists are preoccupied with death and the dead. Even as small children they have an obsessive desire to visit cemeteries in a search for bodies and bones, and keep dead animals in their bedrooms.

The report suggests that this yearning may lead to repeated assaults or unexplained murder, and should be considered in assessing the record of violent criminals who show evidence of self-mutilation.

Coffee or claret?

Dr Joan Braganza, Senior Lecturer in Gastroenterology at Manchester University, awarded a major prize at the Doctor of the Year luncheon this week for her work on pancreatic disease. It is likely that the paper read by the judges is only an appetizer for more startling work.

Dr Braganza was reticent about her unpublished paper, but said that recent studies, while not pinpointing the cause of one of nature's most horrid

drinking eight to 10 pints of beer a day. His heart failure responded to thiamine within a fortnight and he regained his strength in six months.

The second patient admitted was luckier; his daily consumption of up to eight pints a day was immediately noted, his thiamine reserves estimated, found to be low, and treated. He made a quick recovery.

Anti-Chianti

According to Mr Geoffrey Gibson, a London wine merchant, Californian wine sales more than doubled in Britain between 1980 and 1981. It seems suitable that it should be two Californians, Dr David Glaser and George Tarnowski, who may have found a way, reported in *Medical News*, of avoiding the headache from which many people suffer after even small quantities of red wine.

The doctors suggest that the headache is due to a histamine-induced effect of red wine and can be avoided if the person takes a tablet of Tagamet (cimetidine) before they drink.

Toenail fever

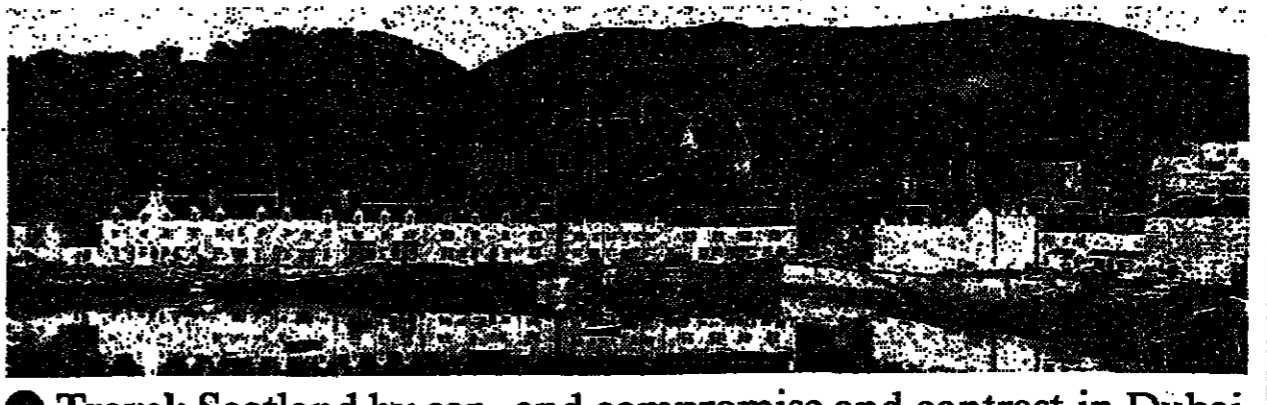
An occupational hazard faced by chiropodists has been investigated by Dr Roland Davies of St Mary's Hospital, Therapy Weekly reports.

The hazard is toenail dust, blown into the air by trimming drills. It causes an allergic reaction similar to hay fever, with sore eyes and runny noses.

Evidence suggests that some of the dust containing spores of the fungi, *trichophyton rubrum*, responsible for athlete's foot, may be inhaled. Although 17 per cent of chiropodists have antibodies to this fungus in their blood, no case of lung disease has yet been diagnosed; in theory chiropodists could suffer from "farmer's lung", a pneumonitis caused by inhaling the spores from mouldy hay.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE TIMES
Tomorrow
START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS,
STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



● **Travel: Scotland by car, and compromise and contrast in Dubai**

● **Family Money: What it costs to convert a derelict house and the rising trend of unit trusts**

● **The Times Prize Crossword: Three copies of The Times Atlas of the World to be won**

● **Keith Waterhouse on Mrs Pooter's Diary**

● **Does crime pay? The winner of The Times/Veuve Cliquot Short Crime Story Competition**

● **Keith Macklin on the Rugby League Cup Final**

● **My India by Enoch Powell**

Plus

All the news from home and abroad; the top gardening column; the best of the 1961 clarets; Values: Where to go to get cleaned, dyed or refurbished; jazz records of the month; critics' choice of what's happening in the arts



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Royal Air Force Colishall today.

Conservation Trust's Care of Buildings Exhibition at Hampton Court Palace, Surrey. In the evening His Royal Highness was entertained to dinner by His Excellency Dr Young Hoon Kang.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
May 5: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited Emmanuel School and laid the foundation stone for new Junior Classrooms to mark the Centenary of the School at Battersea Rise London SW11.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. M. J. Morrison and The Hon Charlotte Monckton
The engagement is announced between Guy Martin James, only son of Mr M. J. F. Morrison, of West Tytherley, Wiltshire, and of Mrs D. F. B. Knapp, of Brook Farm, Northmore, Oxfordshire, and Charlotte Anne, only daughter of the late 9th Viscount Galway and of Lady Teresa Agnew, of Melbury House, Dorset.

Mr C. D. Billam and Miss M. V. Ansari
The engagement is announced between Christopher Damien, eldest son of the late Mr R. Billam and Mrs A. Billam, of Paris, France, and Mahab Violette, only daughter of Mrs A. G. Lewiston, of Southbourne, Dorset, and Mr D. J. Ansari, of Houston, Texas.

Mr J. Westcott Smith and Miss E. O'Connell
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Dr and Mrs John Westcott Smith, of Wigginton, Staffordshire, and Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. O'Connell, of Gorman, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Marriages

Mr L. J. Benjamin and Miss D. H. Karpatkin
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Alexander Benjamin, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Deborah, daughter of the late Mr Marvin M. Karpatkin and Mrs Rhoda H. Karpatkin, of New York.

Mr M. A. Campbell and Miss L. J. Nickson
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 30, at St Mary's, Aberfoyle, of Mr Melford Andrew Campbell, youngest son of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Campbell, of Ayr, and Mrs Robert Campbell, second daughter of Mr and Mrs David Nickson, of Renagour, Aberfoyle, and the Rev John Crook and Father Benedict O'Keefe also took part in the service.

Mr M. J. Stacey and Miss L. A. Joseph
The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs William Stacey, of Overton-on-Dee, Clwyd, and Lucy, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Joseph, of Barnes, London.

Luncheons

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Sir Peter Mills, deputy chairman, United Kingdom Branch, was host at a luncheon given yesterday in the House of Commons by the executive committee of the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in honour of Commonwealth parliamentarians attending the 1983 parliamentary visit to Westminster.

European National Secretaries of Rehabilitation International
Mr John Hammett, MP, and Mr Lewis Carter-Jones, MP, entertained the European National Secretaries of Rehabilitation International at a reception in the House of Commons last night. They were received by the Minister for Social Security and the Disabled, Mr Hugh Ross.

University College London
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Alderman and Sheriff Alan Trill, were present at a dinner given by University College London at the Mansion House yesterday.

Receptions

The Speaker gave a reception in Speaker's House yesterday evening to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the Institute of Sports Medicine.

St Albans Cathedral Trust
St Albans Cathedral Trust held a dinner last night in the Chapter House. The speakers included the Bishop of St Albans, Sir Eric Chedoke, chairman of the Trust and Albert Apple, and the Mayor of St Albans, the Dean of St Albans made a presentation to Lady Aldenham, wife of the retiring trust

Merchant Taylors School, Northwood
OMT Day is on Saturday, June 18, 1983, and also the fiftieth anniversary reception, "Manor of the Rose". Details are available from OMT Society, Durrants, Crossley Green, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.



Words of war: Three posters dating from the First World War. Part of a collection of printed ephemera to be sold at Christie's South Kensington today (Photographs Peter Tivnor)

Library table makes £67,800 at Paris auction

The private collection of M. F. de Panigraha proved a virtual sell-out in Paris on Wednesday, fetching almost £600,000. It was a collection suited to furnishing a home with a special accent on science and art.

OBITUARY

MR JOHN ALDRIDGE

Painter and illustrator

Mr John Aldridge, R.A., who died on May 3 at the age of 77, was a gifted artist, a passionate gardener, and an erudite, gentle man.

He died as he would have wished: at home in Great Bardfield, in the house that for half a century had meant so much to him, and within sight of both his garden and the countryside of Essex which, together, had been the main-spring of his inspiration, since he first went exploring that way on his bicycle in the early 1930s.

The son of Major John Barneton Aldridge, DSO, RFA, and of Margaret Jessica (née Goddard), John Arthur Malcolm Aldridge was born on July 26, 1905.

He was educated at Uppingham School and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he was a Classical Scholar, graduating in LittM, his interest in painting quickly developed in his early twenties, enabling him to have his first one-man show at the Leicester Gallery in 1933, at the age of 28. It was the year that he had moved from Hammersmith to Essex and the work he then exhibited was seen as something of a new flavour in British painting: strongly naive, but of local character, strong and witty, sometimes with a slightly sinister suggestion, as shown by an old house squarely silhouetted against the clear Essex sky.

At the time John Aldridge was one of several young artists, including Eric Ravilison, who after the First World War were discovering the landscape of Essex. Unlike Norfolk and Suffolk, the area was still comparatively neglected by artists, although it was perhaps not now so much the landscape that excited them, but the houses and the villages in its vicinity, as in Stamford, Wetherfield and Little and Great Bardfield in particular.

Aldridge's intuitive skill and his love of buildings and landscape were certainly important factors in ensuring his early recognition as an artist. His first public exhibition, in 1934, was as a member (from 1931-34) of that informal association of artists, the Seven and Five Society. Lasting longer than many such groups - 1920-35 - it included among its members Winifred Baker (Nicholson), Ivon Hitchens, David Jones, Cedric Morris,

DR VICTOR NORTON

Dr Victor Norton, for 27 years editor of the Cape Times till his retirement in 1971, died in Cape Town on May 4. He was 76.

DR ANTON BUTTIGEIG

Dr Anton Buttigeig, who died on May 5 at the age of 71, was President of Malta from 1976 to 1981. A prolific poet and journalist, he had also been Deputy Prime Minister, and President and Deputy Leader of the Malta Labour Party.

Service dinners

Honorable Artillery Company
Officers of the Honorable Artillery Company held their annual dinner at Armoury House, last night. General Sir Victor Fitzgibbon Balfour was in the chair and the guests included the Adjutant General, General Sir George Cooper, and the Governor of the Tower of London, Major-General G. H. Mills.

Birthdays today

Sir John Arnold, 68; Air Chief Marshal Sir Walter Dawson, 81; Sir John Elliot, 85; Mr R. Fell, 62; Mr Stewart Granger, 70; Major-General J. Hamilton-Jones, 57; Sir Ronald Harris, 70; the Rev A. H. Hawkins, 100; Mr K. G. Holden, 73; Sir Patrick Meaney, 58; Mr Alan Ross, 61; the Right Rev John Taylor, 54; Mr Orson Welles, 68.

Memorial service

Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Langley
A memorial service for Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Langley was held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barrack. The Rev J. S. Westmuckett officiated, assisted by the Rev Bruce Lyons (chaplain, RAF Escaping Society). Mr Christopher Langley (son) read the lesson and a hymn was sung.

Free to mark site of Lawrence crash

A tree is to be planted at Bovington Camp, Dorset, next Friday to mark the spot where T. E. Lawrence, "Lawrence of Arabia", died in a motor-cycle crash in May 1935.

Diners

Institution of Mining and Metallurgy
The annual dinner of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy was held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology yesterday. Mr Michael West, president of the institution, was the chair. The principal speaker was Mr C. F. Barber and other speakers included Mr K. B. Smale-Adams, president-elect, and Mr P. G. Smith.

Dinner

St Christopher's School, Hampstead
St Christopher's School, Hampstead, is celebrating its centenary this year. To mark the occasion there will be a garden party in July for past pupils. Requests for invitations should be addressed to the School Secretary, St Christopher's School, 32, Belize Lane, NW3.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Nicholas Barlas to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic in succession to Sir David Roberts.

Latest wills

Farmer's £1m estate
Mr William Thomas Oshier, of Hungerford, a farmer, left estate valued at £1,001,728 net.

University news

Oxford
GOSWOLD COLLEGE, Oxford, celebrating its centenary on May 7, is offering a party for its staff.

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Advertisement for Riccardo Muti, Music Director of the Philharmonia Orchestra. Includes a portrait of Riccardo Muti and text describing his activities and the orchestra's performance.

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St Bees School

The following events will take place to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of St Bees School. On Monday, May 30, there will be a fit pageant and flower festival.

Polish theme for Proms with 'bright future'

The 1983 season of promenade concerts at the Albert Hall, in London, presented by the BBC, has been given a budget of more than £1m, an increase of £100,000 over last year. Mr Robert Ponsoby, the BBC's Controller, Music, announced yesterday.

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A tree is to be planted at Bovington Camp, Dorset, next Friday to mark the spot where T. E. Lawrence, "Lawrence of Arabia", died in a motor-cycle crash in May 1935.

THE ARTS

Television Parody Clichés

Alter-Image (Channel 4) is, on the model of Off-Broadway, off-television: odd little items which you have to make an effort to see...

There was a mercifully brief profile of a furniture designer, Tommy Roberts, who turns chairs and kitchen units into the stuff of dreams or nightmares...

Peter Ackroyd

Cinema

Perilous greed in British euphoria

Educating Rita (15) Classic Haymarket; Warner West End

Eureka (18) Screen on the Hill

British films have never looked in better shape. Gandhi, having carried off even more Oscars than did Chariots of Fire last year, stands second in this week's Variety chart of top-grossing films...

vindictive when their magicians do not bring rain every time; we must not forget what happened, in turn, to Alexander Korda and Brian Forbes.

The new rain-makers will be Sir Richard Attenborough and David Putnam; and from now on they will be expected to work the same magic every time.

There has seemed, indeed, almost a conspiracy to underplay the NFFC's successes. Most reviewers of James Scott's A Shocking Accident, which won the Oscar for the best short film of the year, neglected to mention that it was an NFFC production...



Later-day Eliza's first encounter with the professor: Michael Caine and Julie Walters in Educating Rita

ought to be looking for ways to increase it. There has seemed, indeed, almost a conspiracy to underplay the NFFC's successes. Most reviewers of James Scott's A Shocking Accident, which won the Oscar for the best short film of the year, neglected to mention that it was an NFFC production...

by everyone else including the British Film Institute Production Board, would not have existed without the NFFC and Scottish Television. The charge of elitism may, of course, apply to Babylon, which required subtitles to translate the English spoken in a South London community...

1981 they earned £31m overseas and for 1982 and 1983 the figures will be considerably better. The potential value of cinema as a cultural asset is more important, though, and incalculable.

Harvey, has a thick Merseyside accent and delicately juggles comedy and pathos. Shot in Dublin, it is resourcefully directed by Lewis Gilbert, one of the great trouperes of British films.

David Robinson

Proms 83 Polish on parade

A Polish theme pervades Proms 83, the eighty-ninth season of Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, to be presented by the BBC from July 22 to September 17...

Penderecki will be conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a performance of his St Luke Passion on July 31, while Lutoslawski conducts two works including his Cello Concerto with the soloist Roman Jablonski...

Only once during the season does a Prom venture outside the Royal Albert Hall, and for the first time St Luke's Church, Chelsea, is being used for a performance of English Renaissance music by the Julian Bream Consort.

Concerts

Lindsay Quartet Wigmore Hall

Mr Cropper wrote in a programme note, and demonstrated what he meant by leading a performance propelled by an equal mixture of rhythmic impetus and vitality of spirit...

LMP/Blech Festival Hall

There is no reason on earth why one should not leave a concert of mainstream Haydn, Mozart and Schubert with nerves tingling, feeling as reinvigorated as if one had heard the most imaginative and challenging of new twentieth-century works...

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These players accord Beethoven a thoughtful affection, as well as lively respect, treating the quartets not as museum music, for all their foundation strength to the classical repertory, but as a very present experience for us to share.

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Theatre Myth fed back into personal experience

West Warehouse

Steven Berkoff is the lone warrior of the British stage. As an actor, director and playwright he comes on armour-plated with technique, challenging a hostile public to fault his work a man expecting to be given nothing except what he wins by feats of valour and exorcising some personal demons in a career of ever-expanding conquest.

The Brylcreem Boys Young Vic Studio

Peter Durrant's study of a flak-shocked RAF bomber crew went down well enough on television in 1979 for the BBC to repeat it two years later, but now that Marylebone Theatre Productions are launching the play on a fresh lease of life it is a pity that the author has not cleared up some glaring structural faults that disfigure a basically good idea.

Theatre

Myth fed back into personal experience

Mick, the gang-leader, returns as protagonist along with his sex-object girlfriend and defeated, television-drugged parents. Sex and razor fights amount to much the same thing for these violently stunted urban prisoners to whom even the sun rises "like a biscuit behind the glue factory".

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at the Royal Opera House - an exciting triple bill. Binyon's Night Moves, MacMillan's The Invention, Massine's La Boutique fantasque.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE. Sadler's Wells Theatre. Eves. at 7.30pm. Seat prices £2-£8.

London Festival Ballet. 24 May - 25 June 1983. London Coliseum.

PIXOTE. FINAL WEEK-FINAL WEEK. EATING RAOUL. A QUESTION OF SILENCE.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Good news for Bowater

Bowater Corp, one of the world's largest paper manufacturers, was the toast of the stock market yesterday as the shares shook off recent gloom to end to day 19p higher at 189p.

Earlier this week, more than 1.25 million shares were overhanging the market with few signs of buyers as the price drifted to within halting distance of the year's low of 150p.

But with those out of the way the buyers returned in force amid rumours of a bid from the United States and hopes of a big rise in the price of newsprint there.

Last night, the company was quick to dispel rumours of a bid. "There is no truth in it whatsoever," said Mr Dennis Rees at Bowater Seagrams, the world's biggest distillers, also denied it in New York a bid which interested in making a bid.

Mr Bowater did admit that it was ready to follow the lead of America's big two newsprint producers Kimberly Clark and Consolidated Bathurst, which have raised their prices from \$468 a tonne to \$500 a tonne.

"We will be in there with the rest of them," Mr Rees added. On full production, Bowater handles 900,000 tonnes of newsprint a year and last year more than 80 per cent of net profits were earned in the United States.

Analysts were running their slide rules over Bowater's assessment of the foreign exchange. But yesterday's tender for the new "top" £1m of Treasury indexed convertible stock 1999 proved a flop.

The bank of England said that only about half of the stock had been applied for and that all applicants had been allotted in full at 97.50p.

As a result, dealers were uncertain of how this novel issue would perform in the market when dealings start.

On the bid front, shares of Percy Bilton, the property and construction group, slipped 8p to 270p after Trust Securities £104m bid lapsed.

Trust received less than 1 per cent of the acceptances. Mr Peter Dellar, former chairman of St Georges Laundry before it was taken over by Spring Grove, still had his admirers.

Yesterday, a band of them grouped together and bought 1.7 million shares in Charles Baynes through brokers Charlton Seal Dimmock.

amounting to 24.2 per cent of the equity. Mr Dellar earlier this week bought a 30 per cent stake in Baynes, Britain's biggest back-saw manufacturers, and his followers must be hoping he can do a similar job for them at Baynes as he did at St Georges.

Baynes closed 9p up at 59p. After a nervous shakeout this week, shares of Mr Paul Bristol's KCA International rallied yesterday to close 2p up on the day at 47p compared with the year's low of 45p.

Hopes are high that Mr Bristol may now be putting the finishing touches to a proposed bid for the group's non-oil interests.

Forward Technology lost ground on news of increased losses and a cut in the dividend. Despite an increase in turnover from £42m to £44m pre-tax, losses have grown from £691,000 to £997,000.

Shareholders must also go without their dividend. Last year they received 3p. Prospects for the first quarter were described as encouraging.

Oil shares recovered from a nervous opening after reports from Japan that Iran was offering a discount on Opec prices and putting the fragile price agreement in jeopardy.

The reports were denied and prices recovered most of their earlier falls. BP ended 2p higher at 398p, after 388p, Shell a similar figure at 490p, after 480p, and Lussac lost 10p at 308p.

Among the Australian mining shares, Samanthan rose 2 cents to 80 cents after a visit to London by Mr David Muller, Chairman to meet City institutions.

Mr Muller said Samanthan had discovered encouraging prospects in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. Samanthan and its associate Samson own around 70 per cent of the venture.

Shares of the hotel giant Trusthouse Forte fell 3p to 182p on yesterday's report in The Times from America that it was embarking on a massive expansion programme, including the opening of 14 new hotels.

THF denied the report.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for company name, issue type, and price.

Table listing various stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

SHIPPING

Table listing shipping companies and their respective rates.

MINES

Table listing mining companies and their respective rates.

OIL

Table listing oil companies and their respective rates.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing financial trusts and their respective rates.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance companies and their respective rates.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts and their respective rates.

PROPERTY

Table listing property companies and their respective rates.

RUBBER

Table listing rubber companies and their respective rates.

TEA

Table listing tea companies and their respective rates.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table listing miscellaneous companies and their respective rates.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table listing unlisted securities and their respective rates.

Notes regarding the data and its accuracy.

Sterlings: Spot and Forward

Table showing sterling exchange rates for various currencies.

Money Market Rates

Table showing money market rates for different terms.

Other Markets

Table showing rates for other markets like Australia, Brazil, etc.

Dollar Spot Rates

Table showing dollar spot rates for various countries.

Gold

Table showing gold prices and related data.

THE TIMES 1000 1982/1983 The World's Top Companies

Table listing top companies in the UK and their performance.

Table listing various stocks and their prices.

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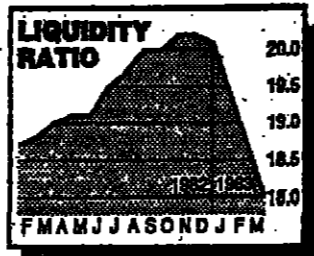
Table listing various stocks and their prices.

Richardson sceptical on ambitions for banking and insurance

Bank governor raises doubts over building society expansion plan

By Lorna Bourke

The building societies' expansionary ambitions received a sharp setback yesterday when Lord Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, raised doubts about the wisdom of allowing them to compete directly with banks and insurance companies.



Lord Richardson (right): need to retain public goodwill

Lord Richardson said that the building societies' expansionary ambitions received a sharp setback yesterday when he raised doubts about the wisdom of allowing them to compete directly with banks and insurance companies.

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City Comment

Harrods: war or peace?

If Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, a chief executive of Lomro, is not bored with the continuing battle between his company and House of Fraser, then he must be the only party in the country who is not. But yet again, later today, a score of institutions will trek to Glasgow to cast their votes.

For this morning, shareholders in House of Fraser have to decide whether or not to support Lomro's plan that Harrods be floated off as a separate company.

This saga would never have happened had the Monopolies Commission not blocked Lomro when it tried to bid for the whole House of Fraser group, thus leaving it locked in with a near 30 per cent stake which it could neither increase, nor, House of Fraser being the dismal performer it is, sell at a profit.

Jobs threat blocks bid for Johnson

By Our Financial Staff

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has again saved Johnson Group Cleaners from takeover by banning two possible bidders from Sunlight Service Group and Initial.

The commission made its unanimous decision mainly on the grounds of competition but also took into account the likely loss of between 200 and 400 jobs.

Exco in £9m unit trust deal

By Jonathan Clare

Exco International the international moneybroker has taken control of Gartmore Investment Management, the unit trust group, in a £9.4m deal with British & Commonwealth Shipping.

The issue of 1.6 million new Exco shares will increase British & Commonwealth's stake in the international moneybroker from about 16 per cent to 18.3 per cent.

But British & Commonwealth's stake in Telerate, the financial information service, where Exco also has a large controlling stake, held by GIM, will be transferred to Cayzer, Gartmore with some other investments before the deal goes through.

Linford bid verdict next week

By Our Financial Staff

The verdict on Linford Holdings takeover bid for food group, Fitch Lovell, is expected from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission next Thursday.

Lord Cockfield, the Trade Secretary, will announce whether the bid should be allowed to proceed and whether Fitch Lovell should be allowed to go ahead with its controversial £35m sale of its Key Markets supermarket chain to Linford.

The early indications are that Lord Cockfield will decide that the Linford bid for Fitch is not against the public interest. However, the decision on the sale of the 106 Key Markets stores to Safeway is the more important of the two.

When Mr Alec Monk, chairman of Linford, launched his £37m takeover bid for Fitch last September, key element in the proposed deal was the proposed merger of the Key Markets supermarkets with Linford's Gateway stores chain.

But Mr Hankins since taking over as chief executive of Fitch Lovell last October has frustrated Linford's takeover ambitions by agreeing the sale of Key Markets, a chain of 104 West of Scotland, and the Fitch poultry business for more than £40m.

In future Fitch will concentrate on food manufacture, specialist foods and frozen food distribution. The deals all depend on winning Department of Trade approval and also on an extraordinary meeting of Fitch Lovell shareholders to be held on May 20.

Boom continues at National Freight

By Andrew Cornelius

The 10,000 employees and pensioners who took part in Britain's largest management buyout of the National Freight Corporation fourteen months ago have seen their £1 shares more than triple to £3.20.

The corporation's board is now recommending a second interim dividend of 5p a share for the 24 weeks to March 19, which brings the total dividends paid on each £1 share since the buyout to 22p a share. This means that an employee with the average holding of 700 shares is nearly £1.70 better off on paper at least - than before the £53m buyout of the largest haulage and distribution company in the country was arranged in February 1982.

The corporation's interim figures show that the shareholding employees have every reason to be pleased. Trading turnover is running at about 9 per cent higher than it was in the corresponding pre-buyout period last year at £2,207.5m.

Mr James Watson, the finance director of the corporation, said that the second quarter of the year which includes Christmas and New Year holidays, is traditionally the weakest trading period. But, he said, the group is performing ahead of a target which itself is significantly higher than that achieved last year.

New contracts have been won from Whitbread, Carreras, Rothman, and Birds Eye and the 300 redundancies announced over the past six months have been balanced by an almost equal number of recruitments to leave the workforce at the pre-buyout level of 24,000.

The board also plans to issue 600,000 new shares this year, which will have the effect of diluting the value of the existing shares by about 4 per cent. This follows a one-for-four share split in April which doubled the number of shares in issue to 15 million and means that original shareholders now own two shares worth £1.60 each, instead of one of the original price of £3.20.

The basis for allocating the new existing shares will be determined by the NFC board later this month. The allocations will be made on one of the four occasions in the year when trading in the shares takes place.

Tax victory for pension funds

By Our Financial Staff

The Government will introduce legislation to exempt pension funds from tax on transactions in financial futures.

Answering a Parliamentary question, Mr Brittan said: "I accept the case for a change in the present law to bring the tax treatment of transactions by pension funds in financial futures into line with that of other pension fund investments."

The problem has been that while profits from transactions by funds in the stock market have been tax exempt, the law on financial futures has been unclear. Pension funds have held back from the London International Financial Futures Market (LIFFE).

Freeze on Hunt firms

By Our Financial Staff

Wide-ranging court orders, freezing funds and properties and securing bank accounts of 20 companies formerly controlled by missing financier Keith Hunt, were made by a judge yesterday.

Mr Justice Harman, in the High Court, in London also granted applications by the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator of five other Hunt companies, for "search and seize" orders against all 20 companies.

The "search and seize" orders permit solicitors instructed by the Official Receiver to enter any premises of the companies which they have reason to believe are "owned, occupied or under the control of the defendant companies or servants, agents or directors."

Murdoch bids for profit

By Michael Prest

News Corporation, Mr Rupert Murdoch's Australian master company, has bid for all the shares in News International, the British subsidiary all of whose ordinary shares it already owns, by offering 225p for each of the outstanding special dividend shares.

The offer was made yesterday after purchases worth £6m in the market had taken News Corporation a holding of the special dividend shares from 50 per cent to 77 per cent.

News International publishes The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sun, and the News of the World. A move to take over the remaining special dividend shares had been widely expected since this class of share was created during a capital reorganization in 1980.

But as the market realized that a full bid for the shares was under way the price rose from 176p to touch 235p. The offer for the remaining 23 per cent in other hands is contingent on approval by British and Australian authorities.

The capital reorganization of three years ago gave News Corporation full voting control over News International but did not entitle it to all dividends. News International is the biggest profit earner controlled by News Corporation.

Budget changes stimulate North Sea activity

BP go-ahead for Andrew field

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

British Petroleum and an oil company consortium led by Phillips Petroleum, the American group, have decided to develop the Andrew field, 120 miles north east of Aberdeen. The move provides concrete evidence of the upturn in North Sea development activity forecast by the Government.

Mr Peter Walters, BP's chairman, said at the company's annual general meeting yesterday that the companies hoped to announce development plans shortly. The decision to go ahead would be "a direct result of the North Sea tax concessions announced in the Budget in March, he said."

Production System, a specially designed mobile drilling ship which will be able to mop up oil from a number of small discoveries.

Although South-east Forties is one of three North Sea discoveries which have been expected to be developed for some time, the development of Andrew will be seized on by the Government as evidence of the "boom" in offshore activity which ministers have been forecasting since the Budget.

The Andrew field was first discovered in 1974, and with reserves unofficially estimated at 140 million barrels, has always been a "marginal" field. BP said yesterday that the abolition of the oil royalty and the doubling of tax-exempt production allowance in the Budget had made it a commercial prospect again.

However, company experts have still not decided on a final scheme for developing the field, whether for example to use a conventional fixed steel platform or a floating production system.

Despite welcoming the Budget changes, Mr Walters made a plea for further changes in the tax system, particularly the high levels of tax on existing fields which are "ring-fenced" and therefore cannot be offset by spending in other parts of the North Sea. These caused "very real problems".

Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that Britain would maintain informal contacts with key Opec ministers, but ruled out any formal links with the organization. Speaking at the end of a five-day tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, Mr Lawson said he was confident oil prices would hold.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc logo and name.

Interim Results table for The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc. Includes financial data for 6, 12, and 18 months ending 31 March 1983.

Williams & Glyn's Bank plc logo and name.

Fears for the future of Western banking 'based on a misunderstanding'

Time to put the Third World debt threat into perspective

Much of the talk of a Third World debt crisis threatening the Western banking system is exaggerated.

It stems from a misunderstanding in both North and South of the consequences of a return to private commercial lending as the main form of capital flow from rich to poor countries.

The expansion of commercial bank lending to the South, from modest beginnings in the mid to late 1960s, has become the main source of external capital for development in the 1970s.

This marks a reversion to the typical 19th and early 20th century source of foreign capital for development - portfolio lending from rich to poor countries. This commercial market had been closed to Third World countries since their widespread defaults in the 1930s.

These defaults were the result and not the cause of the Great Depression. But the trauma of these defaults coloured post-war views about the desirability of private flows of capital between countries. The Bretton Woods system was regarded by the then US Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau as the achievement of his lifelong ambition to "drive... the usurious moneylenders from the temple of international finance".

American banking regulations and the widespread use of exchange controls in Europe - in the UK until 1979 - limited the access of Third World countries to Western capital markets. Foreign aid was invented to provide an alternative form of capital transfer, and until the 1970s, along with direct foreign investment, provided the major source of foreign capital for development.

Long-term debt of non-oil developing countries

Total external debt	1973	1982
As percentage of GDP	20	30
As percentage of exports	90	110

Foreign debt as percentage of exports in 1982

Canada	850
South Africa	630
Latin America	520
Australasia	480
Russia	480
India	240
Japan	230
China	220

Sources: IMF and W. A. Lewis: Growth and Fluctuations 1970-1982

Paradoxically, the American banking regulations gave rise to the unregulated, offshore Eurocurrency markets in the 1960s. Most of the bank loans to the Third World have been channelled through these markets, based in the 1970s on the massive increase in the Eurocurrency deposits of the surplus OPEC countries.

This reopening of the portfolio market - albeit with shorter maturities than was common in the 19th and early 20th century, and with a larger proportion of sovereign (publicly guaranteed) borrowing - has been advantageous for the Third World.

Unlike foreign aid or direct investment, commercial bank borrowing does not require an intimate relationship between borrower and lender, with all the accompanying misunderstandings and the politicization of economics.

But it is precisely for this reason that dirigistes have always cast a jaundiced eye on all "unregulated" private flows of capital.

Two fears are widespread about this Euro-lending. First, that the current level of Third World debt is too high. Secondly, that as a result borrowers may not be able or willing to continue to meet their debt-servicing obligations, and might decide to renege their debts, leading to a collapse of the Western banking system.

It would be foolish to argue that international capital markets are perfect or that all commercial lending has been wise. But these fears are exaggerated.

The fears have been fuelled by various statistical ratios

Statistics for 6 major borrowers in private capital market

Country	Output growth 1970-80	Export growth 1970-80	Medium term debt service ratio 1981 (a)	Percent bank debt short-term, 1981	Cash-flow ratio, 1982 (b)
Mexico	5.2	13.4	80	42	129
Brazil	8.4	7.5	58	27	122
Venezuela	5.0	-6.7	37	55	95
Thailand	7.2	11.8	17	55	48
Korea	9.5	23.0	18	53	53
Philippines	6.3	7.0	24	53	81

Source: World Development Report 1982, World Bank and Overseas Development Institute.

Notes: (a) Interest and principal on medium-term debt in relation to exports of goods and services.

(b) Interest and principal on all debt in relation to exports of goods and services.

between the size of the external debt or the costs of its service to the export earnings or gross domestic product, of particular countries, or the group of non-oil developing countries.

But most of these ratios are meaningless. For as long as a borrower can utilize a foreign loan productively to yield a rate of return at least equal to the real interest cost of the borrowing, and can convert the equivalent domestic resources into foreign exchange, the foreign borrowing can pose no problem. Until the past two years of high interest rates, these real interest costs of borrowing were extremely low, and negative in some years.

Secondly, even if the ratios of foreign debt, or debt service charges to exports are taken at their face value, by historical standards they are by no means excessive. The ratio of long term debt to exports of non-oil developing countries of 1.1 in 1982 is well below the lowest ratios of 2.2 for China and Japan in 1913 and a fraction of these for Canada and South Africa. There was little talk of a debt crisis then.

The doubling in real terms of the long term debt of the Third World over the past 10 years merely reflects a readjustment in the borrowing countries to the opportunities presented by the rebirth of the international capital market.

There may be more reason to worry about the inability of Third World countries to increase their export earnings because of the rising tide of protectionism in the West, but it should be noted that, in the 1970s, the major borrowers had no difficulty in increasing their export earnings, or putting the borrowings to productive use, as judged by the growth rates of income.

In the past, the domestic policies of many Third World countries have hindered an expansion of their export earnings, and these have not yet been reformed. But, nevertheless, resisting protectionist pressures in the West is the best means available to help debt servicing.

So far, however, we have been concerned with the long and medium term debt of the Third World. In recent years, some countries - mainly in Latin America - have obtained substantial short term credits from commercial banks.

These are analogous to the overdraft limits which banks offer to their domestic customers. Just as a domestic client would only expect to pay the interest on his overdraft out of current income, repayments of principal on these short term debts are not usually considered to be part of the annual debt

more a signal of the unsoundness of these countries' past borrowings or their future ability to service them than would be the arbitrary withdrawal of an overdraft facility for an otherwise sound commercial business.

If the commercial banks' withdrawal of credit to some of their major borrowers is a belated recognition of the imprudence of some of their past lending, it might require the acceptance of capital losses associated with bad debts which are part of the normal risks of banking, but it would still not justify forcing their debtors into illiquidity.

If, however, it was believed that the consequent threat of default, associated bank failures and their impact on the international banking system would be seen as unacceptable, and would force Western governments to organize a "bail-out" of the commercial banks, their actions during the last few years can be viewed as being rational.

For the commercial debt accumulated by the Third World in the 1970s represents loans made by Opec via the Western commercial banking system. Many are playing on the historical memories of the bank failures during the 1930s. These bank failures, however, were not the cause of the Great Depression - it was the failure

of national governments to prevent the collapse in their domestic money supply.

With most depositors in Western countries implicitly or explicitly insured, and assuming their governments do not allow their domestic money supply to shrink, failures of imprudent banks need not have any of the other dire consequences currently being predicted.

Real cost of Euro-market credit to Developing countries

Year	%
1976	2.3
1977	0.6
1978	-1.3
1979	0.1
1980	1.8
1981-82	8.0

Source: Overseas Development Institute, estimates.

In this context, the convergent interests of the imprudent commercial banks, some improvident Third World governments, Opec depositors, and those international agencies which would administer a "bail-out" of the banks, can be seen to lie in both creating and proclaiming a debt crisis which threatens the international economy. But there is little reason for Western taxpayers to accept this special pleading.

Deepak Lal
The author is a reader at the London School of Economics.

Japan Air Lines are taking on new executives every day.

Friday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo* - Osaka	Saturday
Saturday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Sunday
Sunday	Heathrow - Moscow - Tokyo* - Osaka	Monday
Monday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo* - Osaka	Tuesday
Tuesday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Wednesday
Wednesday	Heathrow - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Thursday
Thursday	Heathrow - Copenhagen - Anchorage - Tokyo - Osaka	Friday

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1982/83	Company	Price	Chg	Open	High	Low	Close
142	120 Ass Brit Ind Ord	134	-	6.4	4.8	7.8	10.2
158	117 Ass Brit Ind CULS	152	-	10.0	6.5	-	-
74	57 Airsprng Group	624	-	6.1	9.8	17.7	17.7
46	29 Arncliffe & Rhodes	29	-	4.3	14.8	2.5	5.7
326	197 Bardon Jm	326	-	11.6	2.5	15.7	10.2
145	100 CC 11.0% Conv Pref	145	-	15.7	10.8	-	-
270	210 Cladco Group	210	-	17.6	8.4	-	-
86	50 Debon's Services	50	-	6.0	12.0	3.3	8.9
97 1/2	77 Frank Horell	94	-	-	-	8.0	8.6
96 7/8	Frank Horell Pr Ord 87	96	-	8.7	9.2	10.5	11.3
83	61 Frederick Parter	63	-	7.1	11.5	3.9	6.2
35	34 George Blair	34	-	7.3	9.5	9.8	12.4
100	74 Ind Free Castings	77	-	15.7	9.3	-	-
168	100 Ica Constl Pref	168	-	15.7	9.3	-	-
147	94 Jackson Group	147	-	7.5	5.1	4.5	9.4
220	111 James Burroughs	220	-	9.6	4.4	16.1	17.9
260	148 Robert Jenkins	150	-	20.0	13.3	1.6	23.8
83	54 Senstone "A"	69	-	5.7	8.3	9.0	10.8
167	112 Torday & Carlisle	114	-	11.4	10.0	5.1	8.8
29	21 Unbeck Holdings	28	-	0.46	1.8	-	-
45	64 Walter Alexander	45	-	6.8	9.4	4.9	7.0
270	214 W. S. Yates	265	-	17.1	6.5	4.1	8.5

* 7 day average of total of 100 shares of each company. 100 shares of each company. 100 shares of each company.

Prices now available on Pressed, page 48146

FOOTBALL

Television say their offer is withdrawn

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The BBC and ITV yesterday withdrew their offer of £5.4m to cover football on television next season. The decision came immediately after the League club chairmen, meeting at the Cafe Royal, London, had rejected their latest proposals but voted unanimously for the management committee to renegotiate a new deal.

Benfica on the brink of triumph

Benfica go into the second leg of the UEFA Cup final in Lisbon on May 18 only a goal down to Anderlecht. The Portuguese side, who created their 1-0 first leg win in Brussels on Wednesday and may struggle to hold on to their slender advantage in the return.

United's disposition still unsettled

The good and the bad news came in roughly equal proportions for Manchester United yesterday, but it is the former which is the cause of concern for the club's future.

BADMINTON

Singles medal hope for England Bolger's threat with Give Thanks

England's hopes of a singles medal are suddenly and unexpectedly starting to rise. Three women came through to the last eight of the world championships in Copenhagen yesterday and no nation has more than that, which made up for the exit of the remaining two British men Kevin Jolly and Andy Goode.

RACING: OAKS TRIAL AT LINGFIELD



A thirst for success: award-winning Jack Berry at his Cockerham stables

Reaping the rewards of growing up the Berry way

Moss Side Stables, Cockerham, North Lancashire. 104 acres of low-lying land reclaimed from the sea centuries ago. The ground is saturated by the recent torrential rain and casual water lies everywhere.

Table Tennis Prean can be proud

England's Carl Prean, who is aged only 15, came through his second qualifying round match at the thirty-seventh world championships in Tokyo yesterday with great style.

Lingfield Park

Table listing horse racing results and odds for Lingfield Park, including sections for 4.0 TENDER HEART HANDICAP, 5.0 SLEEPING PARTNER HANDICAP, and 2.30 WHEELERS' RESTAURANTS HANDICAP.

Enfield sticking their necks out

Enfield, who have only to draw at Runcorn tomorrow to make certain of the Alliance Premier League championship, will play the match in the attacking style that has brought them 93 league goals this season.

Cycling Doyle returns to the amateur ranks

The British professional chosen for the Milk Race, which starts on May 22, has returned to the amateur ranks to help the team.

WEDNESDAY'S FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: First leg Anderlecht 1, Benfica 0. Premier League: Arsenal 2, Tottenham 0. Football League Cup: Tottenham 2, Arsenal 1.

YACHTING

Jeantot rules the waves. Sunday promises to be a great day for Philippe Jeantot, now leading the 24-hour race from Newport to Rio de Janeiro.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS: Japan WBA Night champion. BASEBALL: American League: Toronto 5, NY Yankees 4. FOOTBALL: Tottenham 2, Arsenal 1.

Boxing

Boxing: Japan WBA Night champion. Football: Tottenham 2, Arsenal 1.

Salisbury results

Table listing horse racing results and odds for Salisbury, including sections for 2.30 DORSET HANDICAP, 3.30 ESTATE BEAUVY AUCTION STAKES, and 4.30 CITY BOWL HANDICAP.

STAKIS plc advertisement. They are pleased to announce that they have been granted a licence under the Gaming Act 1968 in respect of STAKIS REGENCY CLUB. 61-65 Russell Square, London WC1. Tel: 01-636 9591.

BOXING: A DRESSING-DOWN FOR THE VESTED VERSION

Britain's unpaid pugilism is as archaic as Corinth

By Alan Hubbard

And then there were two. Since the middle of October, when he returned from Brisbane with the most successful English amateur boxers in history, the national coach, Kevin Hickey, has watched the Commonwealth Games team disintegrate. Tonight of the nine who won medals, only the smallest, light-flyweight John Lyon, and the biggest, heavyweight Harold Hylton, are left to contest the ABA championships at Wembley Arena.



Lyon: the fly still rears.

The despondent Hickey, with just over a year to re-assemble a fighting unit for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, describes the situation as tragic, the worst he has experienced in his 11 years in the post.

Inevitably four members of the Brisbane team have turned professional, including the gold medal winners Chris Pyatt and Jimmy Price. Two have retired and another, the middleweight, Nick Croomes, a serviceman, in Northern Ireland, and unavailable.

While Hickey is resigned to the traditional difficulty of stemming the drain of talent into the professional ranks, he is concerned that amateur boxing's anachronistic attitudes may have helped deplete any Olympic prospects.

"You can't blame any of the lads who have turned pro. We're in a recession and some were out of work. Had we moved towards some system of broken time payments, as they have in the United States, it might have made a difference. Additionally, the same recession has forced the ABA to cut expenditure on its international programme and training sessions, which makes things less attractive for the boys."

While there is hardly a more professional pursuit than boxing as witnessed on the Bruno Biondi amateur night at the same venue will be exactly that. Unlike many other sports which accept financial compromises, the vested version of the noble art remains about as close to

come from nowhere." Hickey says that Douglas can "hit, box, and take a shot. He's got the lot."

The trouble is, less altruistic eyes will also be sizing him up, and Hickey must hope that the potential star of tonight's show is willing to be hothoused for the Olympics and not tempted, as was Britain's most brilliant teenage amateur, Evrol Christie, into the pro ring.

The Brisbane stalwarts, Lyon and Hylton, should both retain their ABA titles. It will be Lyon's fourth in succession, and Hylton again faces the mat he knocked out in half a round last year, Horace Notice.

In the super-heavyweight division the huge British Transport policeman, Guy Williamson, is expected to defend his current championship against the American, Bobby Watts of the Royal Navy, and Liverpool's Kenay Willis, a carbon copy of his professional brother, Tony, should win the lightweight title.

If Hickey can recruit the nucleus of a reasonable Olympic team after the Games themselves will be sufficient incentive to keep them together. But whether there will be the odd chord in Los Angeles reminiscent of Brisbane's triumphant anthem seems unlikely.

American lined up for Gumbs

Roy Gumbs, the British and Commonwealth middleweight champion, warms up for the forthcoming defence of his British title with a 10 rounds contest against Jerry Holly, for Orlando, Florida, but it is hard to see how they can be obtained without the necessary international experience.

There can hardly be a more frustrating job in sport than Hickey's. For instance, having seen his all-medal Commonwealth Games team decimated, he is excited by another young prospect, an 18-year-old light-middleweight, Robert Douglas, of St. George's A.B.C. London who, he says, "has

expressed grave disappointment yesterday morning at his latest setback in training. We're regretted putting Southgate into trouble but we had priority and it is the only training weekend we have. We were even prepared to release the Southgate players on Sunday for their match against the England Juniors at Lilleshall, but this match has been cancelled and Southgate have now dug their heels in.

"We have not categorically said that failure to report for training will automatically lead to the players being dropped but obviously they are laying their careers on the line, particularly those who are on the fringe of selection. They could also be jeopardising their chance for the Olympic Games."

The Hockey Association have meanwhile invited six other players for training, five to replace the Southgate contingent and one as a substitute for Steve Green, of Neston.

IN BRIEF

Admiral's Cup entry

The Royal Ocean Racing Club has accepted challenges from 17 countries (including Britain) for the Admiral's Cup series which commences with a race in the Solent on May 27, John Nicholas writes.

Nominations for teams of three boats must be made by July 4. Britain are the holders of the trophy, last held in 1981, when 16 teams competed.

The World Boxing BOARDING (WBC) have said they will review a videotape of last Sunday's WBC world lightweight championship bout in Puerto Rico. They want to see whether the judges were correct to award Puerto Rican Edwin Rosario a points decision over José Luis Ramirez, of Mexico.

RUGBY UNION: Tim Barnwell, the Leicester wing who suffered head injury during last Saturday's John Player Cup Final at Twickenham, is reported to be making good progress.

CRICKET: Gloucestershire, who had expected to make a profit this year, now anticipate a loss of around £50,000.

HOCKEY

Olympics at risk for Southgate five

By Sydney Friskin

Another crisis has arisen in England's preparation for the European Cup Competition in Amsterdam (August 19 to 29) from the withdrawal of five Southgate players from the training weekend starting today at Bisham Abbey.

They have declined the invitation to concentrate on the European club championship at The Hague from May 20 to 23.

The players concerned are: Bachelors, Craig Dodds, Kerly and Spray but Debbie the sixth member of the Southgate contingent may, on the advice of the England manager, Colin Whalley, have had second thoughts and could in the end report at Bisham Abbey for training. Last October these five Southgate players were among the 11 who withdrew from the England party in order to start training with the Great Britain squad, but this impasse was later resolved.

Clive Chapman, the chairman of England's selection committee expressed grave disappointment yesterday morning at his latest setback in training. We're regretted putting Southgate into trouble but we had priority and it is the only training weekend we have. We were even prepared to release the Southgate players on Sunday for their match against the England Juniors at Lilleshall, but this match has been cancelled and Southgate have now dug their heels in.

"We have not categorically said that failure to report for training will automatically lead to the players being dropped but obviously they are laying their careers on the line, particularly those who are on the fringe of selection. They could also be jeopardising their chance for the Olympic Games."

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Commercial property/Baron Phillips

London still high in the costs league

Confirmation that London is maintaining its pole position in the world league of office costs comes from the latest survey of commercial rents. Although rents in the City of London at an average £30 a sq ft are lower than both New York and Tokyo, the overall cost of occupying prime space close to the Bank of England rises to more than £50 a sq ft, almost 15 per cent more than for equivalent offices in Manhattan.

London, unlike most other major commercial centres, is plagued by high rates and services charges. In the case of City tenants' rate and service charges add a further 70 per cent to their bill.

According to Richard Ellis, which publishes the report, it is only Britain which suffers from this particular disease. In Glasgow, for example, the rent is less than half of a tenant's overall office costs.

In Glasgow, office rents are on average only £6.75 a sq ft, but rates and service charges take the total occupancy bill to £13.84 a sq ft. Even in London's West End a more reasonable £22 a sq ft rent is boosted to an occupancy cost of £34.65 a sq ft after rates and service charges a further 17.5 per cent to the bill.

The only other world office centre which comes close to taxing tenants at a similar level is Singapore, which levies a 30 per cent rates charge.

Throughout Europe Ellis says that rental trends appear to be static over the past six months although the two cheap cities, Glasgow and Brussels, have been edging upwards during the last six months. In comparison rents in Chicago and Houston have fallen over the past six months with Houston recording a substantial 20 per cent drop.

Despite folklore to the contrary the Ellis International Rent Index shows that since 1975 rents in real terms have consistently failed to keep pace

with inflation in most European cities. This is particularly true of Brussels, where between 1976 and 1983 rents have actually fallen by 1 per cent. Amsterdam and Frankfurt have also experienced slow annual growth.

But in Asia the reverse is true. Singapore, for example, has seen rents grow at five times the rate of inflation in the last five years. And in the principal office markets of Australia rental growth has also exceeded inflation.

Ellis warns, however, that in the Far East and South Africa rental levels appear to have peaked since 1980 and over the last two years increases have been lower than inflation.

Perhaps what is most surprising about Ellis's latest World Rental Levels table is that it does not record any upward movement in City rents since the last survey was compiled. In the very prime areas a new level of at least £32 a sq ft is being established with agents' gossip predicting even higher deals on the point of conclusion at various locations around the City.

For some office tenants it would seem that the total occupancy costs figure of £51 a sq ft is already outdated as they are finding the bill edging closer to £55 a sq ft for their space. It seems likely we shall see these higher costs reflected in Ellis's next survey in the autumn.

The ICI Pension Fund has forwarded-financed the whole of Ashville Properties' 53,000 sq ft first phase Wokingham indus-

trial development. Located in the so-called Thames Valley "Golden Triangle" this first phase is expected to have an investment value on completion of more than £2.5m. Consisting of six units with a high level of office content, the letting agents King & Co are asking rents of more than £4 a sq ft. Completion is expected in August.

James Lang Wootton has let about 50,000 sq ft of warehouse accommodation to tobacco manufacturers Philip Morris in a development close to Brussels airport. The warehouse forms part of a 160,000 sq ft development at Zaventem which is owned by the Philips Pension Fund. This is the second major letting JLV has concluded on the site, earlier this year a big Japanese company leased space in the development. Asking rents are around BF 1,500 a sq metre a year.

Allied Irish Bank has sublet more than 8,000 sq ft in part of its Old Jewry building to Manufacturers Hanover at a rent of £25 a sq ft. Allied Irish has only just leased 19,000 sq ft in the block at 11 Old Jewry for a rent of just over £20 a sq ft. Baker Harris Samuels acted for the bank and St Quintin represented the owners, National Provident and the Rhodes Trust. Richard Main & Co advised Manufacturers Hanover.

The one million shares which are being earmarked for private investors through International Income Properties' London flotation will give individuals the chance to invest in a buoyant sector of the US property market. IIP is a subsidiary of the Australian-based Lead Lease Corporation which has been developing property "down under" since the late 1950s.

A further one million shares are being placed with institutions, some of whom are already investors in IIP. These include the ICI Pension Fund.



Hambro Life is nearing completion of its £3m refurbishment of the Savoy Court office building, bought nearly three years ago for £3.3m. Joint letting agents are DE & J Levy and Michael Laurie & Partners.

IIP has a stake in four well established shopping centres in the US and it plans to use the proceeds, about \$17m, to buy a further shopping mall. It would appear that IIP, under the chairmanship of Mr Gerard Dusseldorp (an expatriate Dutchman) has the right much to spend on upgrading and extending the shopping centres.

warehouse buildings in North America. The current portfolio consists of centres with a high reversionary potential and a strong income stream. By avoiding new developments IIP reduces risk to a minimum and immediately takes advantage of existing rents to judge how much to spend on upgrading and extending the shopping centres.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

DeLOREAN AUCTION POSTPONED. Fortcoming Auction Sale of DeLorean Motor Company. Scheduled for Wed/Thurs 18 & 19th May 1983 has been postponed until further notice. Auctioneers & Valuers HENRY BUTCHER & Co. Brownlow House, 50/51 High Holborn, London WC1V 6EG. Tel: 01-405 8411 Telex 897377

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NATIONAL HUNT RACING PROGRAMMES

Table with columns for race names (Stratford, Sedgfield, etc.), race numbers, and details of participants and times.

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WISDOM

WISDOM is before him but he has not understood it. The eyes of a fool are set in the ends of the earth. Proverbs 17:24

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HARRISON, The Hon. Mrs Frances (Pho) nee Scott. Services will be held at 11.30 am on Tuesday, 17th May at the Church of the Holy Trinity, 17th Avenue, London W14 8JH. The burial will take place at the same church at 1.30 pm on the same day.

BIRTHS

ADAMS - On May 4th at King's College Hospital, London, a son, James Alexander Adams, to Mrs and Mr Robert Adams. Birth weight 7lb 10oz.

IN MEMORIAM

LANDAU, Frederick Anthony, 12th December 1914 - 27th May 1983. He was a member of the Royal Air Force and served in the Middle East during the Second World War. He was a devoted family man and a successful businessman.

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WRELDON SEATS WANTED - I am looking for a pair of Wreldon seats for my car. Please contact me on 01-234 5678.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND - We are pleased to announce that we have received a generous donation from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. This will help us in our research into cancer.

DEATHS

ALDRIDGE - On May 3rd, peacefully at home, aged 82, Mrs Elizabeth Aldridge, nee Smith. She was a devoted wife and mother. Burial at 11.30 am on Friday, 6th May at the church of the Holy Trinity, 17th Avenue, London W14 8JH.

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MAY/JUNE SUPERDEALS - A collection of advertisements for special deals on holiday homes and villas for the months of May and June.

WINDSURFERS AND SAILORS AHOY - A collection of advertisements for holiday homes and villas suitable for windsurfers and sailors.

LOW COST FLIGHTS - A collection of advertisements for low cost flights to various destinations. Our services are designed to provide the best value for money.

VILLAS FROM VILLA WORLD - A collection of advertisements for villas from Villa World. These properties are of high quality and offer excellent facilities.

OLYMPIC BUS - A collection of advertisements for Olympic bus services. We offer reliable and comfortable transport for your group.

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Britain asked to accept Seveso dioxin

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Italian Government has informally approached Britain to ask whether it could accept the consignment of poisonous dioxin...

Hever Castle armour suit fetches £1.9m

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

A superb suit of armour made in Milan at about 1550 for King Henry II of France was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £1,925,000...



Taking bids for King Henry's armour suit. Photograph: Henry Kerr.

Frank Johnson in the Commons Mr Andropov's cracking form at question time

Mr Yuri Andropov opened his general election campaign yesterday with a sparkling performance at Prime Minister's question time...

Chile cool on requests for RAF landings

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The British Government has twice asked Chile for permission to use its territory as a stopover for aircraft flying to the Falkland Islands...

Labour to formalize strategy on marginal seats

Continued from page 1... The function of the whole exercise is designed to channel maximum support from Trade Unions for Labour's victory...

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit St George's School, Windsor...

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,122

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27.

- 1 Deputy shortly has to compete with bereavement (8). 2 A horse to a splash (6). 3 Saw Jack - a splendid fellow! (6). 4 Bookmaker for whom few are 'innuendoes' (8).

DOWN

- 2 Record one's lines as part of serial (7). 3 This sort of questioning produces speedy discharge (5,4).

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

Food prices

Those expecting to enjoy British asparagus during the first week of May will probably be disappointed. The cold wet weather has delayed...

Roads

London and South-east: M27: Closed westbound at Fordsbridge (junction 12) from 5pm to 9pm...

The papers

Commenting on a current survey to find out how Londoners want to be policed, the Daily Mail says...

Weather

A trough of low pressure in the W will move slowly across most of the British Isles during the day.

Stamp Day

Today is National Stamp Day - the anniversary of the issue of the first postage stamp, the Penny Black in 1840.

Anniversaries

Birth: Sigmund Freud, Fr ibor, Czechoslovakia, 1856; Luis Duro, statesman, Buenos Aires, 1859; Stanley Morrison, typographer and historian of the Times, Walsingham, Essex, 1889; Rajk, Valentin, Communist, Czechoslovakia, 1891; Dostoevsky, Fyodor, 1821; Alexander von Humboldt, explorer and scientist, Berlin, 1769; Edward VII (reigned Jan 22 1901-1910), London, 1910.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's Bill: Solvent Abuse (Scotland) Bill, report. Charities Bill, report. Dog Licences (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and Age Discrimination Bill, second readings.

Bond winner

The winning number in the Premium Savings Bonds monthly draw for May for £250,000 is 20RT 715946; the winner comes from the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The pound

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies: Australia \$ 1.58, Austria Sch 22.40, Belgium Fr 79.75, Canada \$ 1.59, Denmark Kr 14.26, Finland Mkt 8.94, France Fr 112.85, Germany DM 3.99, Hong Kong \$ 135.00, Italy Lira 121.27, Japan Yen 326.90, Netherlands Gld 0.60, Norway Kr 1.80, Spain Ptas 169.00, South Africa Rd 1.98, Sweden Kr 12.27, Switzerland Fr 2.56, USA \$ 1.63, Yugoslavia Dnr 128.90.

Top films

- Top box-office share in London: (1) Tommie, (2) Sophie's Choice, (3) Gandhi, (4) The Windtalkers, (5) The Boatman's Boy, (6) The Godfather Part II, (7) The Untouchables, (8) The Untouchables, (9) The Untouchables.

Highest and lowest

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various cities: London 15-20, Manchester 12-18, Birmingham 10-16, Liverpool 11-17, Glasgow 9-15, Edinburgh 8-14, Cardiff 10-16, Belfast 11-17, London 15-20.

Around Britain

Weather forecast around Britain with a map and data table for various locations like London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Swansea, Plymouth, Exeter, Bristol, Southampton, Portsmouth, Norwich, Lincoln, Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, Newcastle, Sunderland, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, London, etc.

High tides

Table showing high tide times for various locations: London Bridge 8.11, Avonmouth 8.46, Cardiff 8.12, Newport 8.22, Exeter 8.50, Plymouth 8.10, Bristol 8.44, Southampton 8.19, Portsmouth 8.25, Norwich 8.27, Lincoln 8.30, Derby 8.33, Leicester 8.36, Nottingham 8.39, Newcastle 8.42, Sunderland 8.45, Liverpool 8.48, Manchester 8.51, Birmingham 8.54, London 8.57.

Abroad

Weather forecast for various international locations: Moscow 10-15, London 15-20, New York 15-20, Tokyo 20-25, Sydney 20-25, Melbourne 15-20, Perth 15-20, Wellington 10-15, Auckland 10-15, Christchurch 10-15, Dunedin 10-15, Sydney 20-25, Melbourne 15-20, Perth 15-20, Wellington 10-15, Auckland 10-15, Christchurch 10-15, Dunedin 10-15.

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